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Tuesday



Michael Jackson greets a crowd of supporters.

Flip Sides: Jackson jurors hear opposing views of pop star — pervert or victim of scam? | **3**

White Flight: Slightest hint of snow closes area schools | **8**



Say What?
Those Asian tattoos may not mean what you think | **28**

ENTERTAINMENT

Boogie Night:

Uma Thurman and John Travolta hit the dance floor. Also, 'Sopranos' on A&E; Yeardley Smith; marketing Moby.

>> **13-17**



Weather > Cloudy, Flurries



40 | 30

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 29

SUICIDE BLAST | DEADLIEST ATTACK YET IN IRAQ



AFTERMATH: Workers clean debris near a large pool of blood at the scene of a suicide attack in Hilla, south of Baghdad, on Monday. A suicide bomber detonated a car near police recruits and a crowded market, killing 115 people. **Setback:** Boldest challenge yet to new security force | **Page 6**

Political Upheaval In Beirut

PM, Cabinet step down as anti-Syria protests intensify

BEIRUT, LEBANON | With shouts of "Syria out!" 25,000 protesters massed outside Parliament in a dramatic display of defiance that forced out Lebanon's pro-Syrian prime minister and Cabinet Monday, two weeks after the assassination of a popular politician touched off increasing unrest.

Minutes after Prime Minister Omar Karami announced he was stepping down, jubilant demonstrators — shouting, waving flags and handing red roses to soldiers — demanded that Syrian-backed President Emile Lahoud bow out, too, and pressed on with their calls for Syria to withdraw its troops from the country.



Karami

Syria remained silent about the rapidly changing atmosphere in Beirut, where it ruled unopposed for years, even deciding on the Lebanon's leaders, after deploying troops ostensibly as peacekeepers during the 1975-90 civil war.

At first glance, the resignation of Karami and his government was a huge victory for the opposition, united by dislike of the Syrian-backed government and the drive to find those who killed former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri two weeks ago. Many blame Syria for his assassination.

The government may have stepped down in part to quell the unprecedented anger at Syria and its allies in Lebanon. Still, Damascus remains the major player in the country: Aside from its troops, it has powerful allies, including the president, the intelligence services and the military. ZEINA KARAM (AP)

CASH | Hey, Free Bread! A man gave out \$1,200 in bills to servers and diners at a Toronto restaurant Friday, the Toronto Sun reported. Staff said the man, who was neither a customer nor recognized by anyone there, walked in and began noncha-



lantly pulling bills from his wallet and handing them to some but not others. "I tried to thank him, but he just said, 'Don't thank me' and walked away," said Melanie Loyer, a server at Kelsey's. About 15 people left the eatery \$81 richer. (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners** | Page 2

eyeOpeners

CRIME

We Need a Law To Prevent This

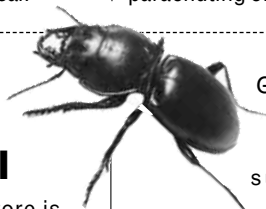
A couple of British students are planning to carry out a crime spree by breaking obscure local laws across the United States, the Guardian reported. Richard Smith and Luke Bateman, both of Cornwall, intend to break

about 45 laws over an eight-week summer trip, beginning in California with riding a bike in a pool and cursing on a putt-putt course. Then, they'll whale-hunt in land-locked Utah and sleep in a South Dakota cheese factory, they say. Smith got the idea from the game "Balderdash," which lists a quirky Florida law prohibiting widows from parachuting on Sundays. (EXPRESS)

INSECTS

They Said It Was All-Natural

A Hong Kong grocery store is being prosecuted after a customer allegedly discovered 575 beetles and 17 larvae in a jar of cereal he bought in 2003. The customer, lawyer Philip Dykes, said the breakfast cereal was "too organic for my liking." The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department said it had charged the



Great grocery store with sale of "food not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the purchaser." The AS Watson Group, which runs the store, has pleaded not guilty. Great said the store began selling the product, "Bunalun Organic Vanilla Granola Breakfast Cereal," in 2001 and the case is the first such complaint it ever received about the product. (AP)



HOSPITALITY

Call It a Mutt-tel

There's no reason to complain if your room has fleas at this three-story bed and breakfast in Cottonwood, Idaho, designed to look like a large beagle with a puppy. Owners Frances Conklin and Dennis Sullivan, above, rent out the one-suite unit at Sullivan's Dog Bark Park to help advertise their main business — creating wooden carvings of several breeds of dogs using a chain saw. The couple says the inn, which contains a "cozy reading nook" in the canine's snout (and a bathroom in its hindquarters), is the world's largest beagle structure. (AP)

POLITICIANS

At Least She's Honest About It

Britain's Labour Party has been forced to drop a would-be Parliament candidate after it emerged last week that she'd once worked as a prostitute in Paris, London's Daily Telegraph newspaper reported. Christine Wheatley, 55, an Oxford graduate who until recently was training to be a lawyer, was the only woman on a short list of seven candidates for a seat in Cumbria. Her name was quickly removed from the list when party officials learned of her colorful past from an interview she gave to a local newspaper. "Yes, I worked as a tart. I'm not ashamed," Wheatley admitted to the Telegraph, saying she had needed money at the time and she hadn't yet found "proper work." "It was not truly Parisian love. It was usually only three minutes. But I'm not ashamed at all. I have worked as an encyclopedia salesman in Germany — I'm more ashamed of that." (EXPRESS)

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HOPPING THROUGH: Authorities have given up their hunt for the owner of a mysterious kangaroo discovered in Dodgeville, Wis. The animal was captured in January after calls from shocked residents who had seen it hopping through parts of the town.



Nation

Intel Raises Concern of New Threat

Officials: Bin Laden enlists al-Zarqawi for possible attack on U.S.

WASHINGTON | New intelligence indicates that Osama bin Laden is enlisting Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, his top operative in Iraq, to plan potential attacks on the United States, federal officials said Monday.

Al-Zarqawi has been involved in attacks in the Middle East. He has not been known to have set his sights on America.

The Homeland Security Department issued a classified bulletin to officials over the weekend about the intelligence, which spokesman Brian Roehrkas described as "credible but not specific."

The government has no immediate plans to raise its national terror alert level, Roehrkas said. But, he said, the intelligence "reiterates the desire by al Qaeda and its associates to target the homeland."

Bin Laden was in contact with al-Zarqawi within the past two months in an effort to enlist him in attacks, said an official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The move may reflect the al Qaeda leadership's desire to involve al-Zarqawi in activities outside Iraq, the official said.

LARA JAKES JORDAN (AP)

Charges Outlined Against Jackson

Opening statements paint pop star as both molestor and victim

SANTA MARIA, CALIF. | Jurors were given opposing images of Michael Jackson as the pop star's trial opened Monday — the prosecution portraying him as a perverted child molestor and the defense saying he was the victim of a con artist who used her cancer-stricken son to prey on celebrities for money.

District Attorney Thomas Sneddon outlined a complicated and bizarre story alleging that Jackson showed the boy sexually explicit material and groped him as his associates threatened to kill the boy's mother if he told anyone.

Sneddon said the boy, now 15, will describe to the jury his sexual experiences with Jackson and show that the musician's Neverland Ranch was a devilish lair.

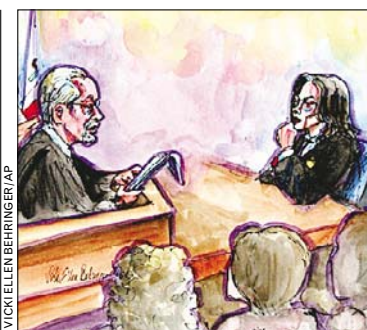


FAMILY BONDS: Michael Jackson follows his mother, Catherine Jackson, as they arrive for the first day of his child molestation trial in Santa Maria, Calif., Monday.

Jackson, 46, sat still as a statue with one hand pressed against his cheek as Sneddon outlined the accusations. Jackson is charged with molesting the then-13-year-old cancer patient at Neverland in 2003, plying him with alcohol and

conspiring to hold him and his family captive.

After the nearly three-hour opening by the prosecutor, defense attorney Thomas Mesereau, Jr. went on the attack, saying the mother of the accuser fraudulently claimed to



An artist's rendering of Jackson listening to the judge deliver instructions to the jury during the court proceedings.

many people that she was destitute and that her son needed money for chemotherapy. In truth, he said, the boy's father was a member of a union that covered his medical bills.

Mesereau said the mother went to comedian Jay Leno for money and Leno was so suspicious that he called police to tell them he had been contacted and "something was wrong." LINDA DEUTSCH (AP)

HEARSAY | ACCOUNTS

"I know what I don't know ... I don't, to this day, know technology. I don't know finance and accounting."

—BERNARD EBBERS
THE FORMER CHIEF OF WORLD COM INC., TESTIFYING IN COURT MONDAY ON ACCUSATIONS HE ORCHESTRATED THE \$11B ACCOUNTING FRAUD THAT SANK THE COMPANY IN 2002

Search Continues for Missing Fla. Girl

HOMOSASSA, FLA. | The father of a missing 9-year-old girl pleaded again for her safe return Monday — the fifth and possibly final day of a full-scale search for Jessica Marie Lunsford.

"Just drop her off. I'll come get her," said Mark Lunsford, repeatedly choking back tears.

Lunsford said he remains convinced his daughter, who was last seen tucked into bed on Wednesday



Volunteers kept searching for the missing girl in Homosassa, Fla., on Monday.

night, did not leave home voluntarily, though authorities have uncovered no evidence she was abducted.

About 160 volunteers who gathered early Monday were organized into search groups and given metal sticks to poke through grass and lift barbed wire.

Monday would likely be the last day of the full-scale search, said Ronda Hemminger Evan, a spokeswoman for the Citrus County sheriff's department. (AP)

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Nation

77.6

The average life expectancy, in years, for Americans, according to a new government report. Declines in death rates from heart disease, cancer and other causes pushed the figure to a new record high. Women still live the longest: 80.1 years, or 5.3 years longer than men.

Poll Shows Unease on Retirement

Those nervous about future likely to oppose Social Security reform

WASHINGTON | Americans over 40 and people who are nervous about retirement are most likely to oppose President Bush's plan for creating personal accounts in Social Security, an Associated Press poll found.

Almost half of Americans who haven't retired say they don't think they're doing a good job of getting ready for that time in their lives, according to the AP poll.

More than half of Americans — 55 percent — say they oppose Bush's plan to create private accounts, while 39 percent say they support it, according to the survey.

Support for Social Security reform also varies sharply with different age groups. A majority of people from 18-29 — 54 percent — support the president's plan, while only a third of those from 40-64 say they support the plan.

That age divide could be important as the president attempts to persuade Congress to back his plan. Younger voters tend to play less of a role in midterm election years, which 2006 will be, than they do in presidential years. WILL LESTER (AP)

Court Rules on 'Combatant'

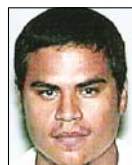
Judge orders terrorism suspect Padilla must be charged or released

WASHINGTON | A federal judge ordered the Bush administration Monday either to charge terrorism suspect Jose Padilla with a crime or release him after more than 2 1/2 years in custody.

In South Carolina, the state where Padilla is held, U.S. District Judge Henry Floyd said the government cannot hold Padilla indefi-

nately as an "enemy combatant," a designation President Bush gave the American citizen in 2002.

"The court finds that the president has no power, neither express nor implied, neither constitutional nor statutory, to hold petitioner as an enemy combatant," Floyd wrote in a opinion that was a stern rebuke to the government. He gave the administration 45 days to take action.



Padilla

"We think that this is a wonderful decision," said Padilla's attorney, Andy Patel. "It is one of those moments that all Americans should be proud of."

The Justice Department had no immediate comment on the ruling.

The administration has said Padilla, a former Chicago gang member, sought to blow up hotels and apartment buildings in the United States in addition to planning an attack with a "dirty bomb" radio-logical device. MARK SHERMAN (AP)

In Brief

TAMPA, FLA.

Schiavo's Parents Seek Permission for Her Divorce

Terri Schiavo's parents asked a judge Monday to allow the severely brain-damaged woman to divorce her husband, accusing him of adultery and not acting in his wife's best interests.



It was one of a flurry of 11 court motions filed by Bob and Mary Schindler on behalf of their daughter. Michael Schiavo says his wife, who has spent 15 years in what doctors call a vegetative state, once told him she would never want to be kept alive artificially. A judge has ruled that Schiavo can have her feeding tube removed on March 18. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Renters' Lawsuit to Be Used To Clarify Court Confusion

The Supreme Court said Monday it will use a renters' lawsuit claiming personal injury from toxic mold in apartments to clarify when plaintiffs can sue in federal or state court. The question is a hot political topic, since consumers often pursue claims in state courts, where large payouts in class-action lawsuits tend to be made. Earlier this month, President Bush signed legislation aimed at steering big-money lawsuits to federal courts. (AP)

FLORIDA | HELPING HANDS



HOME TEAM: Sheila Johnson, left, assists in the building of a Habitat for Humanity home in Boynton Beach, Fla., Monday as part of a program sponsored by the organization to challenge students to devote their spring breaks to volunteer work.

Kan. Police Warn Speculation May Harm BTK Probe

WICHITA, KAN. | The police chief warned Monday that public speculation could complicate the BTK serial killings investigation and vowed that suspect Dennis Rader will "not be tried in the media, but rather in a court of law."

Rader was being held in connection with 10 deaths between 1974 and 1991. An initial court appearance was set for Tuesday. A source close to the investigation said he had confessed to six killings.

Police had long linked the BTK

killer to eight murders but added two more on Saturday after Rader's arrest and said their investigation was continuing. The nickname comes from kill-



Rader

er's own writings to authorities and stands for "Bind, Torture, Kill." The source also said investigators were looking at three other killings. But Police Chief Norman Williams repeated the figure of 10 killings.

Williams said the media had spread "speculation, inaccurate and irresponsible information" and said it was complicating "an already complex investigation." (AP)

Today in The Washington Post

Party Power: The job of the new White House social secretary is to imagine the worst — and then figure out how to prevent it. | *Style*

Bench Brawl: The Senate formally reopens the battle over President Bush's judicial nominees on Tuesday. | *A Section*

Cab Confessions: Nothing brightens the day of D.C. taxicab driver Adrian Brocks like a spirited verbal political bout. | *Metro*

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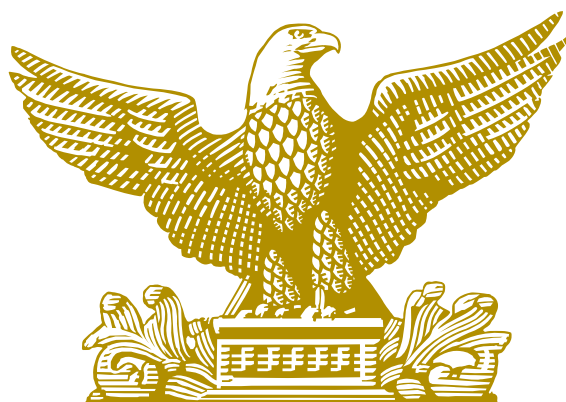
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World



DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Tony Garza married one of Mexico's richest businesswomen over the weekend. Maria Asuncion Aramburuzabala is vice chairwoman of Grupo Modelo, the maker of Corona and Negra Modelo beers.

Suicide Attack in Iraq Kills At Least 115

Bombing in Shiite area is worst single strike since fall of Saddam

HILLAH, IRAQ | In the deadliest single strike since the fall of Saddam Hussein, a suicide car bomber attacked mostly Shiite police and National Guard recruits lined up for physical exams at a medical clinic Monday, killing 115 and wounding 132 there and at a nearby market.

The bombing presented the boldest challenge yet to Iraq's efforts to build a security force that can take over from the Americans.

The explosion in Hillah, a largely Shiite Muslim town about 60 miles south of Baghdad, was so powerful that the only thing remaining of the bomber's car was the twisted wreckage of the engine block.

Dozens of people stepped through small lakes of blood that pooled on the street to retrieve shattered limbs, severed feet and hands.

Empty shoes and sandals of those killed or wounded were thrown into a corner. Scorch marks infused with blood covered the clinic's walls. Morgue workers unloaded plastic body bags from pickup trucks as weeping relatives looked on.

Some of the victims were shoppers or vendors from a nearby out-



RIISING TOLL: A woman grieves at the scene after a suicide bomber blasted a crowd of police and national guard recruits at a clinic in Hillah, Iraq on Monday. At least 115 people died and 132 were injured in the single deadliest attack since the fall of Saddam.

door street market. But most were recruits waiting outside the clinic.

The bombing comes at a time when the Sunni Arab insurgency is trying to disrupt the formation of a new government set to be led by majority Shiites for the first time in modern history. Iraqi forces are

eventually supposed to take over responsibility for security — the key to Washington's exit strategy — but they remain under-equipped, ill-prepared to fight insurgents and often make easy targets.

The Shiites have refrained from striking back — mostly at the

behest of their revered leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who is credited with bringing them this far.

There was no claim of responsibility for the attack. Police in Babil province said "several people" were arrested, but gave no details.

ALI AL-FATLAWI (AP)

Peace in the Balance for Burundi Voters

Turnout high for vote on power sharing among Hutus, Tutsis

BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI | Voters in Burundi turned out in large numbers to cast ballots on a constitution that enshrines Hutu control of parliament and government after decades of minority Tutsi dominance, officials said.

Electoral chief Paul Ngarambe said at least 80 percent of 3.1 million registered voters cast ballots in the referendum, which will determine the fate of a constitution that reserves 60 percent of seats in government and parliament for Hutus and 40 percent for Tutsis.



A woman rests as she waits in line to cast her vote on the referendum in Bujumbura, the capital, on Monday.

The Tutsi minority had dominated politics since independence from Belgium in 1962.

The referendum and elections are part of a peace process intended to end Burundi's 11-year war between the Tutsi-dominated army and Hutu rebels. The last holdout rebel group pledged not to disrupt the referendum, saying it hopes the new constitution will clear the way for the election of a new government.

Progress toward peace in Burundi could boost efforts to end fighting elsewhere in the vast and troubled Great Lakes region, which includes Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. Final results are expected Friday, officials said. (AP)

State Dept. Report On Human Rights Slams North Korea

WASHINGTON | North Korea's human rights record remained "extremely poor" in 2004, the State Department said Monday, citing reports of extrajudicial killings, disappearances and arbitrary detention.

The evaluation was perhaps the most critical in the department's annual report on rights conditions in 196 countries and territories.

"Prison conditions were harsh and life-threatening, and torture reportedly was common," it said. (AP)

Standards: Report criticized interrogation tactics similar to those once OK'd by U.S. | **Today's Post:** Section A

In Brief

VATICAN CITY

Pope Begins Speech Therapy

Pope John Paul II has begun speech and respiratory therapy following surgery to ease his latest breathing crisis, the Vatican said Monday, without indicating when he might be able to speak in public or leave the hospital. Throat specialists, including one who attended the pope's tracheotomy last Thursday, said patients like John Paul should be able to speak normally again, although not as loudly. (AP)

IVORY COAST

Rebels Say Peace Process Is Over After Violence Erupts

Violence between government-allied fighters and rebels erupted on Monday, shattering a cease-fire that had held for three months and prompting rebels to declare the country's stymied peace process dead. Several rebels were wounded, but no deaths were reported. Ivory Coast has been split into a rebel-held north and loyalist south since a September 2002 coup attempt propelled the world's largest cocoa grower into civil war. (AP)

KYRGYZSTAN

Observers Criticize Election

International election observers criticized Kyrgyzstan's parliamentary elections Monday as falling short of democratic standards, citing mostly charges of interference with the media. Early results from the Sunday vote show more than half the contests for the 75 seats heading for runoffs, leaving the political future unsettled for the ex-Soviet republic. A number of opposition figures were barred from running. (AP)

BRAZIL

Men Accused of Killing Nun Detail Plot to Protect Killers

Two gunmen accused of shooting American nun Dorothy Stang earlier this month told a Senate commission Monday that ranchers, loggers and politicians from around the eastern Amazon had pooled resources to protect her killers. Stang, 73, was killed on Feb. 12 following a long dispute with a local rancher who wanted to log a stretch of rainforest that Stang was fighting to preserve. (AP)

NEEDLE WORK: Singapore's zoo is using an ancient Asian remedy to treat sick animals: acupuncture. The latest patient is a female Asian elephant whose right leg was crushed by a male elephant. She gets acupuncture twice a week.



World

U.S. Mulls Incentives for Iran

Carrot-stick tactic was once rejected by Bush

LONDON | President Bush is considering whether to join European leaders in offering economic incentives to Iran in exchange for abandoning its nuclear fuel program, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday.

The Bush administration has opposed any rewards for Tehran's cooperation. During the president's trip to Europe last week, European leaders urged him to join them in offering incentives such as possible eventual membership for Iran in the World Trade Organization.

Their argument was that a united front would be more effective

than a continuing U.S.-Europe split over how to persuade Iran to give up its nuclear ambitions.

"The president is considering what he heard in Europe and looking at what he thinks might be necessary to support European diplomacy, but he hasn't made any decisions," Rice said. "He's really reviewing and looking back on the conversations," she said en route to London for meetings with newly elected Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The tactics of incentives had been flatly rejected by the administration before the European trip. (AP)

IAEA CHIEF FAULTS IRAN

THE CHIEF OF THE U.N. ATOMIC

agency chided Iran on Monday for delays in divulging information about its nuclear program, saying the onus is on Tehran to overcome a "confidence deficit."

A two-year investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency established that Iran ran a clandestine nuclear program, including uranium enrichment, for nearly two decades.

IAEA chief Mohammed ElBaradei said only better cooperation from the Iranians would "build the necessary confidence" to dispel concerns. (AP)

Shoe-Bomb Conspirator Convicted

Briton pleads guilty to plotting to blow up a U.S.-bound airliner

LONDON | A British man accused of plotting with "shoe-bomber" Richard Reid pleaded guilty Monday to conspiring to blow up a U.S.-bound aircraft in 2001.

Saajid Badat, 25, who prosecutors said dismantled his bomb after having second thoughts, was to be sentenced at a later date. It was the first major conviction for a terrorist plot here since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Badat was charged with conspiring with Reid, who was convicted in the United States, and with a Tunisian to make the bomb.

"It is clear the plan was that Reid and Badat would bring down a passenger aircraft at similar times in late December" of 2001, prosecutor Richard Horwell said.

Badat received training in explosives in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and returned to Britain on Dec. 10, 2001, with his device, according to Horwell. Four days later, he sent an e-mail to his handlers "indicating he might withdraw" from the plot. (AP)



A woman yells at U.N. peacekeepers after a man was killed, allegedly by Haitian police, during a march by Aristide supporters in Port-au-Prince on Monday.

2 Killed at Protest to Mark Year Since Aristide's Ouster

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI | Waving pictures of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and shouting epithets against the United States, hundreds of protesters Monday marked the departure of Haiti's first democratically elected president a year ago.

Police fired tear gas and then bullets into the crowd. At least two people were killed.

"This looked to be peaceful but for some reason — we are not sure why — the Haitian police arrived and

decided to disband the demonstration," said Cmdr. Carols Chugs Brag, a spokesman for the 7,400-member U.N. peacekeeping mission.

Before the shooting, demonstrators shouted slogans against President Bush, whom Aristide and his supporters blame for his departure. U.S. soldiers arrived the day Aristide left and helped install an interim government.

U.S. officials say Aristide left voluntarily. He is now in exile in South Africa. MICHELLE FAUL (AP)



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Local



Zack Leonard, center, and Raven Shrader, right, take advantage of the 8 inches of snow that fell in Roanoke, Va., on Monday. Closer to home, far less snow stuck.

Area's Schools Have a Snow Day

Kids given the day off, but storm fizzles as it slides through area

WASHINGTON | With the roads bone dry, most area school systems canceled classes Monday in anticipation of what forecasters said could be a major winter storm. But by the time the snow arrived it was barely sticking to many roads.

The National Weather Service said a storm warning remained in effect until 1 a.m. Tuesday. Forecasters were predicting three to six inches of snow — less than initially thought Sunday night, when up to 10 inches was expected.

School systems in Fairfax, Prince William, Montgomery and Prince George's counties and the District of Columbia all decided by 5 a.m.

to close for the day.

Fairfax County Public Schools spokesman Paul Regnier defended the decision, saying it was made at about 4:30 a.m. so that workers who commute long distances would stay off the roads and parents would have time to make plans.

Regnier said Monday was the last built-in snow day for students, meaning that any more days missed because of the weather will have to be made up.

In Montgomery County and the District, students still have one snow day left. Students in Prince George's already have to make up one day at the end of the year.

BRIAN WESTLEY (AP)

Fearless forecast: Weathermen certainly were wrong in their snow total predictions | Today's Post, Metro

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Fairfax May Get Assessment Relief

FAIRFAX, VA. | Fairfax County residents will be paying more in property taxes as home values continue to soar. But they would see some relief under a record \$3 billion budget proposed Monday by County Executive Anthony Griffin.

This is the fifth consecutive year the county's property assessments have increased by double digits, as Northern Virginia continues to

attract more jobs and residents. The assessed value of the average home increased by more than 23 percent in the past year, to about \$445,000.

To help homeowners, Griffin wants to shave the real estate tax rate by 10 cents per \$100 of assessed value. A typical homeowner would save \$445. But because of the higher assessments, most property tax bills will still go up about \$500. (AP)

Local

Woman Gets 17 Years for Slavery

Silver Spring resident forced 11-year-old to cook, clean for no pay

GREENBELT, MD. | A Silver Spring woman was sentenced to more than 17 years in prison Monday for forcing a Cameroonian girl to work as a domestic servant for two years in the late 1990s, beginning when the girl was only 11 years old.

Theresa Mubang was convicted by a federal jury in November of involuntary servitude and harboring an alien. Prosecutors said she forced Evelyn Chumbow, now 18, to cook, clean and take care of Mubang's young children for no pay. Mubang also allegedly beat the girl

with a high-heeled shoe, broomstick and television cable.

Mubang fled shortly after her conviction and was not in court Monday. Her attorney, Peter Goldman, said Mubang's use of a domestic servant was part of the "cultural norms" that Mubang brought from her native Cameroon.

But U.S. District Court Judge Deborah Chasanow rejected that argument while sentencing Mubang to 17 years and 6 months in prison.

The offenses "went well beyond any differences in cultural norms," Chasanow said. "One simply cannot take advantage of young girls from other cultures." STEPHEN MANNING (AP)

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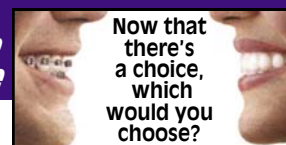
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How a dad in Montgomery County helps a teen in Moscow

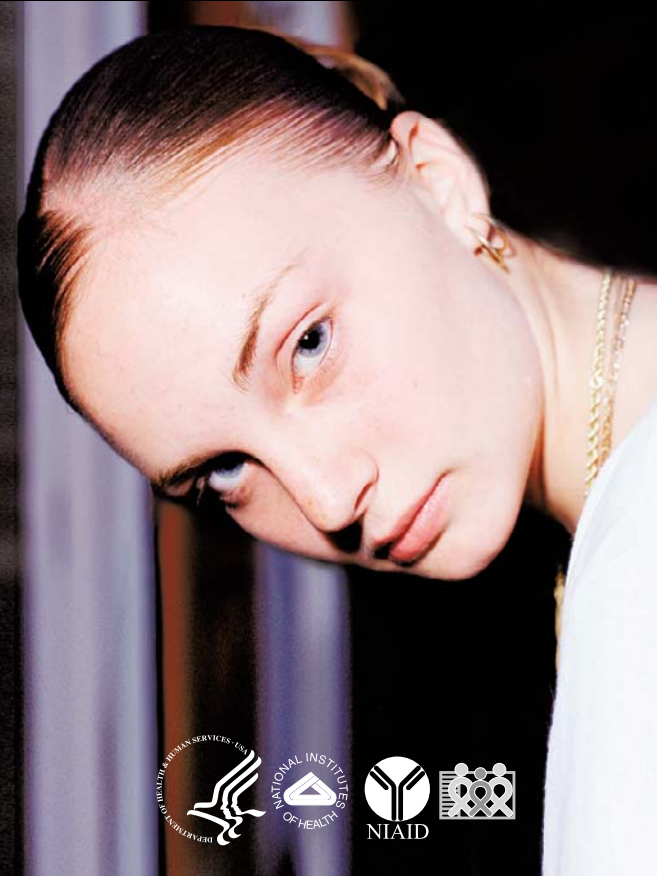
It's estimated that as many as 4 million young Russians will be infected with HIV over the next couple of decades. A recent ad campaign in Russia cautions, "Close your eyes on HIV today and you might miss the people closest to you tomorrow."

If you're 18-50, healthy, and HIV-negative, there's something you can do to help, even from here. Consider volunteering for an investigational preventive HIV vaccine research study. You cannot get HIV/AIDS from the vaccine, and you'll be paid for your contribution.

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WHITE HOUSE | IN PROTEST



BLOCKED OFF: Members of the American Disabled for Attendant Programs block the White House gates Monday to push for a bill providing alternatives to institutions for people who can be served in the community.

The Lotteries

Monday, February 28

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers **2-5-3 (white)**
Evening Lucky Numbers **4-4-9 (white)**
Mid-day DC 4 **9-2-1-3**
Evening DC 4 **1-8-5-4**
Quick Cash **30-8-27-17-23-32**
Hot Five **9-8-15-23-27**

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3 **6-6-9**
Evening Pick 3 **8-9-2**
Mid-day Pick 4 **7-3-6-1**
Evening Pick 4 **3-6-7-9**
Match 5 **15-16-19-25-33 Bonus: 37**

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 **5-8-9**
Mid-day Pick 4 **0-8-3-5**
Mid-day Cash 5 **4-25-26-28-33**

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Money



HOBBITS HAVE IT: A total of 41.5 million viewers tuned in to ABC on Sunday to watch the Academy Awards. That's down 2 million from last year's show, which honored "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," according to Nielsen Media Research.

Federated Aims High With Deal

\$11B buyout of May would give it 950 stores across country

CINCINNATI | Federated Department Stores plans to double its size by acquiring May Department Stores in what amounts to an \$11 billion bet that department stores have a future, even as consumers increasingly shop at discounters and specialty stores.

"We believe passionately that department stores have a very important place in the ever-forming, ever-changing retail environment," Terry J. Lundgren, Federated's chairman said Monday in announcing the cash-and-stock deal.

Many of May's department stores eventually will be converted to the Macy's name as Federated accelerates its strategy of creating a nation-

wide brand that would give it pricing leverage with suppliers. The transaction also would bring together the operator of Bloomingdale's with May's Marshall Field's, Lord & Taylor and Hecht's chains.

Federated would not say how many jobs will be cut or what the company would do in cases where it would control multiple department stores in malls. Analysts at Smith Barney estimates that 94 malls have stores with Federated and May nameplates.

The company wants to hear what regulators say about whether and how many of the overlapping stores will have to be closed or sold, Lundgren said.

The combined company would have about 950 department stores and an additional 700 bridal and formal wear stores. It would operate in every state except Alaska. (AP)

Job Satisfaction Drops 9% Since '95

NEW YORK | U.S. workers, pushed to produce more and uneasy about new technology, are markedly less satisfied with their jobs than a decade ago, a new survey says.

But the decline in on-the-job happiness has at least temporarily leveled off, according to the survey released by The Conference Board,

a business research group.

Half of U.S. workers are happy with their jobs, down from nearly 59 percent in 1995, according to the survey. The number of those satisfied is slightly higher than in a similar survey done in 2003, when 48.9 percent of workers indicated they were content with their jobs.

Compared to a decade ago, job satisfaction has declined among all types of workers. The biggest decline in on-the-job happiness was among workers earning \$25,000 to \$35,000 and among workers between the ages of 35 to 44.

The workers most satisfied with their jobs are those earning \$50,000 or more and workers at least 65 years old, the survey found. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
TitanMtl wi	38.08	+3.46	+10.0
IvanhM g	7.89	+0.65	+9.0
Titan Intl	14.49	+0.96	+7.1
Cenveo	3.73	+0.23	+6.6
Mesab	19.84	+1.19	+6.4

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
BradPhm	9.75	-3.50	-26.4
BoysC	2.28	-.21	-8.4
StarGsSr	2.06	-.19	-8.4
USEC	14.80	-1.10	-6.9
KingPhrm	9.55	-.70	-6.8

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	5.50	5.50
Fed Funds close	2.5625	2.50
3-month	2.70	2.62
2-year	3.60	3.43
10-year	4.38	4.29
30-year	4.72	4.69

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
GWilliFd s	8.47	+3.01	+55.1
Retek	8.41	+2.41	+40.2
PacificNet	9.05	+2.48	+37.7
MillCell	2.38	+0.65	+37.6
CitizFnCp	10.00	+2.60	+35.1

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
BiogenIdc	38.65	-28.63	-42.6
Finlay	12.07	-2.88	-19.3
ProtDsg	14.98	-2.35	-13.6
Valentis	3.13	-.49	-13.5
NTech	4.35	-.65	-13.0

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5203	.5212	.5356
Canadian Dollar	1.2332	1.2397	1.3370
European Euro	.7547	.7552	.8003
Japanese Yen	104.47	105.21	109.16
Mexican Peso	11.1020	11.0870	11.0610
Taiwanese Dollar	31.07	31.17	33.35

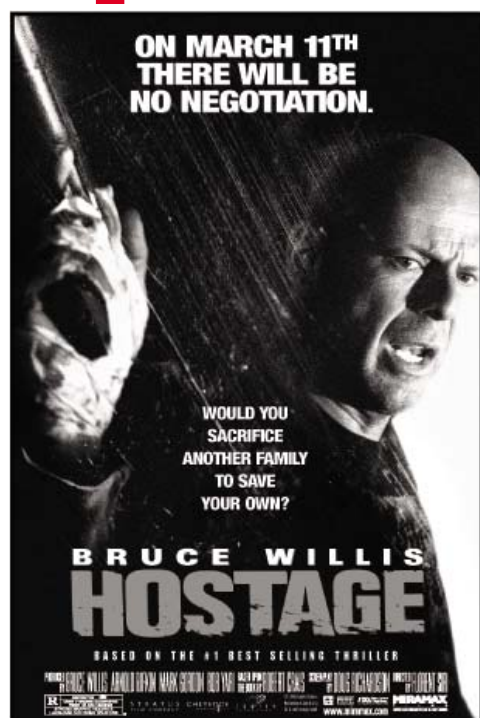
DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
-75.37	-13.68	-7.77
-0.70	-0.66	-0.64
10766.23	2051.72	1203.60

Biotech Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
Amgen	61.61	-1.20	-4.0
ApplBio	20.54	-.11	-1.8
BiogenIdc	38.65	-28.63	-42.0
Celgene s	27.38	-.80	+3.2
ChRvLab	46.10	-.20	+2
Chiron	35.58	+.57	+6.8
Genentch s	47.20	-1.04	-13.3
Genzyme	56.09	-1.64	-3.4
GileadSci s	34.55	-1.01	-1.3
Imclone	44.26	-1.34	-3.9
Invitrogn	69.96	-1.31	+4.2
LabCp	47.89	-.23	-3.9
Medlmun	24.08	-.41	-11.2
Monsnto	58.78	-.38	+5.8
QstDiag	99.40	-.04	+4.0

End of the line? Deal could spell the death of Hecht's, the region's dominant department store chain and a vestige of area's rich retail heritage | **Today's Post: Section A**

Express Night Out



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Health & Fitness

Tainted Glove

Latex covering may not make hands more sanitary, study says

HEALTH | There's something reassuring about watching restaurant workers handle our food with gloves, but the appearance of extra cleanliness may be no more than that — appearance. That's what a team of Oklahoma scientists suggests after studying hundreds of tortillas purchased at fast food eateries.

The team was addressing a debate among scientists on whether gloves actually lower the chance that germs end up in food — and thus the chance customers can get food poisoning.

The case for gloves: They keep food from bare hands, which constantly touch things illness-causing microbes can end up on.

The case against gloves: They're



Scientists say gloves may do little to keep servers' germs away from food.

only squeaky clean if new, and users may wash their hands less.

In the study, published in the January issue of the *Journal of Food Protection*, scientists bought 371 tortillas, one at a time, at 140

restaurants from four fast food chains. Roughly half the samples were from gloved workers, the others the ungloved.

A lab blended a small piece of each tortilla in sterile fluid and cultured them in nutrients to see what grew — specifically, if microbes that flourish inside us would show up.

The reassuring news: Very few samples spawned cultures of the microbes being tested. The disconcerting news: There was no statistical difference between glove-handled tortillas and those touched by bare hands.

Dean Cliver, a food safety professor at the University of California, Davis, said studies show dirty hands usually contaminate gloves' exteriors as they are put on. "The main purpose of gloves is they look good to customers and inspectors," he said. "Hand washing is still key."

ROSIE MESTEL (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Rapid (Next Day) Improvement in Depressive Symptoms Research

The Mood & Anxiety Disorders Program at NIMH is conducting research on depression and rapid improvement of symptoms. NIMH is seeking people with depression who are:

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XX247



THIS
YEAR I
GIVE
THANKS
FOR MY
LIFE!

R. Donald Tomasik

I wanted to write and let you know that I am eternally grateful to you for saving my life! I saw an ad for mobile ultra-sound tests for a year before actually signing up to be tested. I just had a feeling that something wasn't right; my wife kept urging me to spend the \$179 and get checked for nothing else but the peace of mind. Boy, am I glad I did, it was found that I had a 5 1/2 centimeter aortic aneurysm. I was able to take my test results to my primary care physician and be referred to a specialist, Doctor Showalter, who's first question was 'how do you know you have an aneurysm?' I showed him my Healthfair test results and he smiled and said, 'those Healthfair screenings probably saved your life!' That was in February 2003 and after a successful surgery, I'm happy to say I'm in good health in 2004 and indebted to Healthfair USA for saving my life! Unfortunately our friend Connie in Vermont didn't have an opportunity to have these inexpensive tests and died of a ruptured aneurysm. We miss her and hope to see Healthfair mobile units all over the country someday. It really is necessary to have these tests since Medicare won't pay for preventative screenings and I couldn't afford to pay the hospital price! Thanks from both Marge and I for your 7 test package, it was truly an investment in my health!



THE
RISING
COST OF
HEALTH
CARE

I am a physician here in Charleston, SC; a very skeptical one at that. I have been seeing your ads in the newspaper of your cardiac and vascular screenings, and have to say I was the first to shout "scam artist". I started getting patients showing me this ad and asking my opinion. Instead of answering them with my first thought, I decided to check into your organization myself and do some research. With the cost of healthcare these days I was very concerned of the legitimacy of your organization. The first thing I decided to do was make an appointment for myself and see it from the inside. I also needed the help of others to compose an even stronger report of findings. I then gathered 11 other family members and colleagues to do your studies. I scheduled various appointments for all of us throughout the month of June. I gave everyone an appointment time and asked them to report back to me of their experience and results. So for 12 of us it was off to the testing sites inside of a bus in various parking lots.

My findings were very impressive! I think your organization is an astounding service to the public! It is so nice to see people like you make this service available to the public. I commend you in this service of screenings you offer at this price, it seems impossible to do this in today's society of medical expenses. The rising cost of healthcare today makes plenty suffer and the conformities of today's managed care makes us all susceptible to the realities of our scope of care. I am now your best supporter and I will happily refer you to all of my patients, and commend you accordingly in the community!

ULTRASOUND TEST OF THE HEART & ARTERIES

AREA DATES AND LOCATIONS:

ANNAPOLIS
March 21 & 30
Asbury United Methodist Church
87 West Street

VIENNA
March 10 & 24
Moose Lodge
9616 Courthouse Road

BETHESDA
March 18 & 28
First Baptist Church
5033 Wilson Lane

FAIRFAX
March 16 and 31
Sunrise at George Mason
4300 George Mason Road

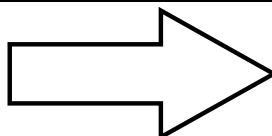
SPRINGFIELD
March 3 and 17
Sunrise Assisted Living
6541 Franconia Road

McLEAN
March 15
American Legion
1355 Balls Hill Road

FREDERICK
March 26
Frederick Sportsplex
1845 Brookfield Court

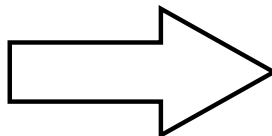
HEART ATTACK PREVENTION PACKAGE

ECHOCARDIOGRAM
ULTRASOUND TEST



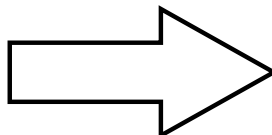
Echocardiogram is a video ultrasound of the heart. It may detect enlargement of the heart, valve abnormalities, blood clots and tumors.

ELECTROCARDIOGRAM
(EKG) TEST



EKG may detect ischemia, silent heart attack and atrial fibrillation. EKG provides a picture of the electrical activity of the heart.

HARDENING OF THE
ARTERIES (ASI) TEST



Hardened arteries cause the heart to work harder, which leads to vascular disease. ASI test shows the degree of hardening of the arteries.

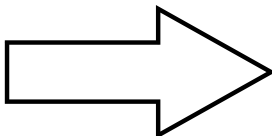
ALL 3 TESTS



These cardiac tests are painless and non-invasive. The combined cost is more than \$1,300 at most hospitals.

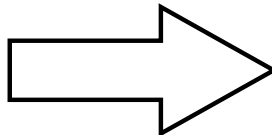
STROKE & ANEURYSM PREVENTION PACKAGE

STROKE/CAROTID ARTERY
ULTRASOUND TEST



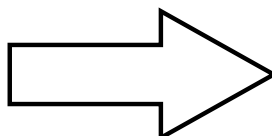
Many strokes are associated with blockages in the carotid arteries that may be detected with an ultrasound.

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DON'T MESS WITH HER: "Diary of a Mad Black Woman," starring Tyler Perry and Kimberly Elise, got its revenge against mixed reviews by earning \$22.7 million and taking first place at the weekend box office. The strong debut pushed "Hitch" to into second.



Entertainment



MUSICAL TWIST: Travolta and Thurman co-star in the sequel to the mobsters-in-Hollywood comedy "Get Shorty."

Cool Reunion

'Be Cool' gives John and Uma one more spin on the dance floor

SEQUELS | John Travolta made dancing a signature of his performance with "Saturday Night Fever," so it would seem obvious that this is a guy who knows a little something about shaking it in front of a cam-

era. Yet Travolta had to convince the makers of "Be Cool," the sequel to the 1995 comedy "Get Shorty," to let him hoof it up to a South American beat in the new movie.

"I wanted to dance," said the star. "For me, the correct dance was something very cool, very low key — a samba maybe, a bossa nova, a cha-cha, you know, a Brazilian sound like Sergio Mendes."

No, the filmmakers told him. They wanted something more contemporary, more urban, more hip-hop; something that would appeal to a young movie crowd, and better suit the film's subject matter, the cutthroat world of today's Hollywood music industry.

For a while, it was an impasse. But fate intervened, and the two sides found an amicable compro-

mise when they discovered "Sexy," a song written and performed by the hot hip-hop group the Black Eyed Peas. It features elements of Antonio Jobim's "Insensatez," performed by Mendes.

"So suddenly my idea was very hip," said Travolta. "I trust classic stuff. Old is new again."

Not only does Travolta burn up the dance floor in one memorable "Be Cool" scene, but he does so reunited with his "Pulp Fiction" co-star Uma Thurman.

Travolta, 51, reprises the cool-as-a-cucumber Chili Palmer character that he first portrayed in the original comedy, based on an Elmore Leonard novel. The streetwise mobster-turned-movie-producer has abandoned the fickle movie industry and set his sights on the music business.

The sequel finds Palmer encountering a whole new universe of bizarre and dangerous characters in the music business, including Russian mobsters and gangsta rappers.

For Thurman, 34, who joined the "Be Cool" cast on the heels of her physically demanding "Kill Bill" films, it was a welcome change to dance and not have to hit anyone.

Thurman remains in the musical realm with her role in the remake of "The Producers," playing the Swedish bombshell Ulla. "It is a lifelong dream of mine to be a song-and-dance girl," she said. ANGELA DAWSON (ENTERTAINMENT NEWS WIRE)

Today's Top Stops

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Watch the Birdies: Old Crow Medicine Show

An Appalachian-music acoustic string band with wide-screen ambitions, the Old Crow Medicine Show plays with a raw, keening sound as down-home, mountain-high and deep underground as a blues, bluegrass or folk fan could wish for.

Rams Head Tavern, 33 West St., Annapolis, Md.; 8 p.m., \$14.50; 410-268-4545.



The members of OCMS started out busking but now can afford keen lids.

Atreyu: No, After You

Orange County's Atreyu makes unusual melodic metal that harks back to the days when they called this sort of thing "acid rock" — arty, heavy and soulful music to bang your head by.

9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; with Unearth, Norma Jean, Scars of Tomorrow, 7 p.m., \$15; 703-218-6500. (U St.-Cardozo)

Auteur! Auteur! Scorsese Film Series

Even if Scorsese didn't get that Oscar, the Washington area shows Marty some love with a series of his films. Tonight, the seminal crime drama "Mean Streets" starring Robert DeNiro and Harvey Keitel.

AFI Silver, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; 6:50 p.m., \$7.50-\$8.50; 301-495-6700. (U St.-Cardozo)

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com



SONS OF SAMBA: Not all girls, not Brazilian, but still a cool, engaging musical mix.

CHRIS FLOYD

Insiders' Tracks

MUSIC | Have you ever been in a swanky bar where most of the clientele look like models and the drinks are very tasty and very overpriced yet the background music is engaging and emotional, creating an ironically welcoming too-cool-for-school vibe?

If you've been to that bar in the past month, said glossy soundtrack may be the Brazilian Girls' self-titled debut album on Verve. However, it's so good it deserves a listen on the other side of the velvet rope.

The mixture combines multiple languages — Italian, German,

French, Spanish, English — which results in a slinky sexiness akin to something like Lamb, Zero 7 or Portishead. Triumphs to toast to include the big band-injected "Corner Stone" and the ethereal groove of "Dance Till the Morning."

Despite a lengthy lexicon and mish-moshed genres, the Brazilian Girls succeed in making reggae bass lines, a few naughty words, Italian opera and tango orchestras worthy of a second sip. Sure, it's overtly slick. But that makes it easier to swallow. DERRIK J. LANG (AP)

Entertainment



MOVE IT, SISTER: If it weren't for warm beer and something called "bangers," the U.K. would be just like the U.S. On the British charts, stateside artists battle it out as Nelly and Tim McGraw double-teamed Jennifer Lopez, toppling the diva after only a week at number one.

A&E's Mob Ties



PREMIUM STUFF: The show's players may be unknown to viewers without HBO.

A basic-cable network takes a costly gamble on 'The Sopranos'

RISKY BUSINESS | A&E is placing a \$195 million bet and perhaps its future on Tony Soprano's back.

The basic cable channel's recent purchase of rights to telecast edited versions of HBO's "The Sopranos" for a record-shattering \$2.5 mil-

lion per episode is the new year's most significant television deal. The reruns will start in fall 2006.

The deal for another of HBO's crown jewels, "Sex and the City," has worked out well for TBS. But the price tag for "The Sopranos" has left many television executives wondering how A&E can possibly profit.

Court TV General Manager Marc Juris, who was outbid for the

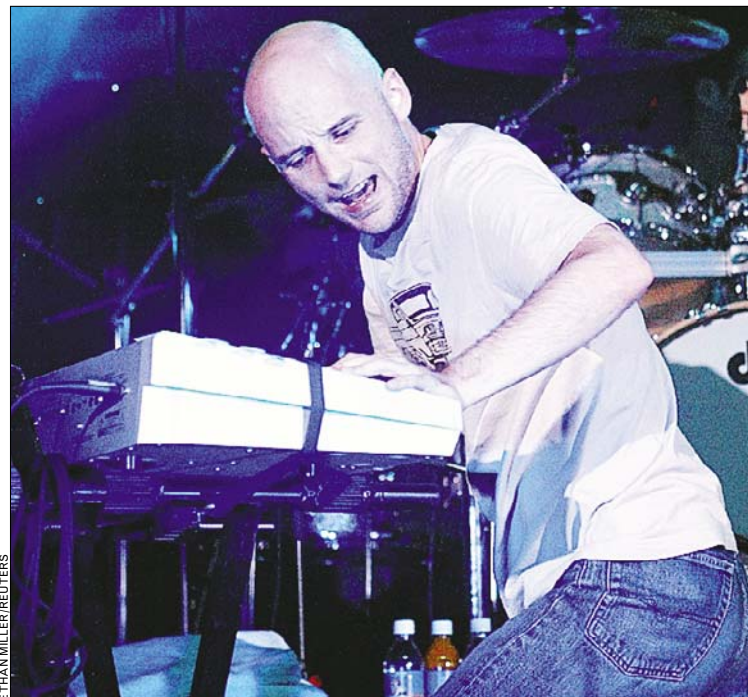
show, likened the deal to building a 10,000-square-foot mansion in a run-down neighborhood: "You will definitely impress a lot of the neighbors and make a lot of noise, but I don't think you'll get your money out of it."

"We don't do anything that doesn't make money," said Bob DeBitetto, A&E programming chief.

But to this day A&E has been haunted by losing syndication rights to "Law & Order" in 2002. Acquiring the rights to "The Sopranos" gives A&E cachet.

As a show rife with violence, sex and bad language, "The Sopranos" will have to be edited to meet basic cable standards. Some fans wonder how that can be done without stealing the show's essence.

Juris said he's not rooting for failure, but he and many others in television are wondering the same thing: "I don't see how the math works." DAVID BAUDER (AP)



MULTI-GENRE TECHNO: Music innovator Moby is tying his fortunes to synergy.

Moby on the Market Trail

Art and commerce meet as a CD pushes a hotel pushes a tour

CROSS-PROMOTION | Moby is not one to shy away from alternative ways of marketing his music. In fact, he embraces them.

"For a long time, that was the only way I could get my music heard," he said.

These days, Moby is working hand in hand with boutique hotel chain W, which will do its part to help promote and market the artist's new V2 album, the two-disc "Hotel," due March 22.

Two days later, publishing house Viking Studio will release "Teany Book," which Moby wrote with Kelly Tisdale.

For Moby and the executives at V2, the exclusive partnership with W makes sense.

Because of the disc's title, V2 executives considered ways to connect it to an actual hotel, V2 marketing director Debbie Chertock noted. "W just made sense in terms of Moby's and the hotel chain's

demographics," she says.

Krissy Guttroff, brand marketing director of W Hotels, calls it a "perfect fit" for everyone involved.

After several meetings, Moby and V2 and W executives created a game plan, encompassing parties, CD sales and contests. Also being discussed is the possibility of W being the exclusive hotel of the artist's upcoming Hotel tour, which begins in the spring. W operates 21 hotels in North America.

"The brand marketing is key here," noted V2 marketing director Debbie Chertock, adding that Moby recently met with several music supervisors from the WB Network to discuss potential synch licensing opportunities.

"Hotel" will be sold in all W gift shops, on the hotel's Web site and in the mini bars in all 5,100 W hotel rooms in North America.

Additionally, as part of its cultural series Adventures in Wonderland, W Hotels will host three invite-only CD release parties — in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles — at which Moby will perform live.

MICHAEL PAOLETTA (BILLBOARD)

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Entertainment



BEST ACTOR? Johnny Depp tries another eccentric role with "Willy Wonka."

Oscar-Watchers Look to 2005

SPECULATION | "Million Dollar Baby?" Old news. Jamie Foxx? Ancient history. It's time to set odds on which films will dominate next year's Academy Awards.

Granted, no one's seen these movies, and some have not even started shooting, so who knows which might have that touch of Oscar gold?

And the Oscar could go to:

→ **CINDERELLA MAN** Russell Crowe and Renee Zellweger star in the story of Depression-era boxer Jim Braddock, who gets a second chance in the ring. Ron Howard directs.

→ **MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA** Rob Marshall ("Chicago") directs this adaptation of the novel about an orphan girl (Zhang Ziyi) who becomes a queen-bee madame.

→ **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** Ridley Scott ("Gladiator") directs the saga of a battling knight (Orlando Bloom) in Jerusalem during the Crusades.

→ **WAR OF THE WORLDS** Steven Spielberg and Tom Cruise spin the spectacle of sci-fi spectacles, a new take on H.G. Wells' invaders-from-Mars classic. Everyone loves to see the world toasted.

→ **CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY** Tim Burton's remake offers endless visual possibilities, and the story of the candyman — played by arch-eccentric Johnny Depp — is a beloved one for academy boomers.

→ **ALL THE KING'S MEN** Sean Penn stars in this update of Robert Penn Warren's novel. It's Penn's meatiest role since "Mystic River," backed by a dream cast — Anthony Hopkins, Kate Winslet, Patricia Clarkson, Jude Law and James Gandolfini.

→ **JARHEAD** Sam Mendes ("American Beauty") aims for another mix of drama and macabre humor with this tale of an elite sniper unit in the Gulf War. Enlisting Jamie Foxx to co-star won't hurt.

→ **KING KONG** "Lord of the Rings" maestro Peter Jackson directs a remake of the great ape biopic, with Naomi Watts as the new Fay Wray.

→ **WALK THE LINE** Joaquin Phoenix is Johnny Cash; Reese Witherspoon is June Carter. It's a lot like, "Huh? Jamie Foxx as Ray Charles? ... Oh, yeah. I see it." But can Phoenix lip-synch? DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

IT'S UNBOUND TO BE A GREAT WEEKEND

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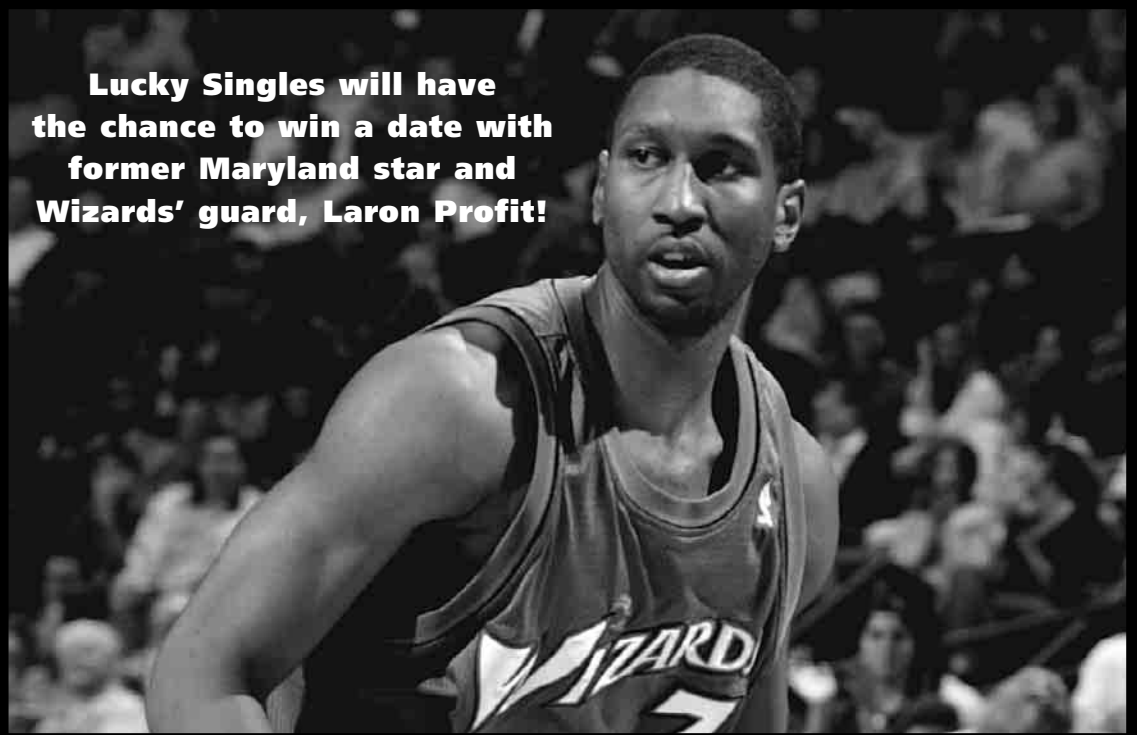
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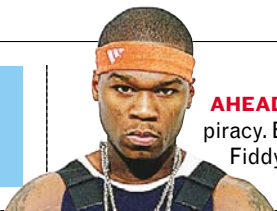
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Entertainment



AHEAD OF HIMSELF: If 50 Cent was really so tough, he wouldn't be afraid of a little Internet piracy. But, in the tradition of hard-as-nails paranoids like Destiny's Child and Tori Amos, Fiddy is moving the release date of his latest, "The Massacre," up to March 3 from the 8th.

Soldier of Fortune

Think the real world is in a mess? Try the one in 'Mercenaries.'

VIDEO GAMES | Wouldn't it be thrilling to play the Russian Mafia for fools, help the Chinese and upset the delicate balance of power in

the Korean peninsula? That's easily done in the alternative reality of "Mercenaries," a new video game for the PlayStation 2 and Xbox where choosing sides and blowing stuff up is exceptionally entertaining.

It's a free-form, action-filled jaunt that will take a long time to fully explore — and destroy. The sub-

title is "Playground of Destruction," but "Grand Theft Rambo" seems just as appropriate.

In "Mercenaries," peace-seeking political leaders on both sides of the Korean DMZ have been killed by nuke-hoarding dictator-in-training Choi Song, plunging the region into chaos. Each of five factions is trying to impose its will: a feel-good U.N.-style group, the Chinese, the Russian mob, the CIA-run South Korean Union and



KABOOM: "Mercenary" lets you dabble in politics and, better, blow things up.

the North Koreans.

You parachute into this volatile setting to earn cash and ultimately to kill Song and his minions.

You can jump from side to side to gain favor and access to special equipment like tanks, helicopters and anti-air missiles. Battles here are white-knuckle and soldiers generally have good artificial intelligence. The political maneuvering is fun, but the action takes center stage. **MATT SLAGLE (AP)**



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MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13) (12:30 3:20) 6:15 9:05

THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (1:30 5:00) 8:45

SIDEWAYS (R) (12:45 3:35) 6:30 9:20

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★ DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG-13) (2:10 5:00) 7:35 10:10

★ CURSED (PG-13) (12:10 2:40 4:50) 7:30 9:45

★ MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG-13) (12:00 2:15 4:30) 7:00 9:20

★ CONSTANTINE (R) (2:20 5:10) 7:40 10:20

BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE (PG) (1:50 4:10) 6:40

SON OF THE MASK (PG) (12:20 2:30 4:40) 6:50 9:10

POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE (G) (1:30 3:15)

HITCH (PG-13) (ON 2 SCREENS) (1:40 4:20 5:20) 7:10 8:00 9:50 10:30

BOOGEYMAN (PG-13) 10:00

MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13) (12:40 3:40) 6:30 9:40

ARE WE THERE YET? (PG) (2:00 4:20) 7:20 9:25

THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (2:50) 6:10 9:30

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BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE (PG) (12:10 2:40 5:05) 7:30 10:00

SON OF THE MASK (PG) (12:30 2:50 5:00) 7:10 9:20

POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE (G) (12:00)

HITCH (PG-13) (1:00 4:00) 6:50 9:45

MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13) (12:20 3:30) 6:40 9:30

THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (12:25 4:20) 8:00

FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) (2:30 4:50) 7:20 9:55

SIDEWAYS (R) (3:50) 7:00 9:40

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BAD EDUCATION (NC-17) (2:00 4:40) 7:30 10:10

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★ DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG-13) (11:00 1:40 4:20) 7:00 9:40

★ CURSED (PG-13) (12:10 2:30 4:50) 7:10 9:30

★ MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG-13) (11:50 2:10 4:30) 6:50 9:10

CONSTANTINE (R) (ON 2 SCREENS) (12:00 2:40 5:20) 8:00 10:40

Rear Window Captioning (1:10 4:00) 6:40 9:20

HITCH (PG-13) (ON 2 SCREENS) (12:20 1:20 3:10 4:40) 6:00 7:40 8:50 10:30

THE WEDDING DATE (PG-13) (3:20) 8:10

MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13) (1:00 3:00 4:10) 7:20 9:00 10:10

BEING JULIA (R) (12:30 2:50 5:10) 7:30 9:50

THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (11:30 3:40) 8:20

MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) (12:40 5:30) 10:20

FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) (11:10 1:30 3:50) 6:20 8:40

SIDEWAYS (R) (11:00 2:00 5:00) 6:10 7:50 10:50

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CURSED (PG-13) DIG (1205 230 500) 730 1000

HITCH (PG-13) DIG (1235 135 335 435) 635 735 930 1035

CONSTANTINE (R) - ID REQ'D DIG ★ (125 340 425) 725 940 1025

BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE (PG) DIG (100 400) 705

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HITCH (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1125 1210 130 210 330 415 455) 615 715 745 900 1000 1030

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WINNING NUMBER: It's been a red-letter week for minor pretty boys of the recent past. Both "Beverly Hills, 90210" heartthrob Luke Perry and Jason Gedrick of the late "Boomtown" have signed up to star in the lottery-ticket dramedy "Ticket to Ride" on Fox.



Television

ON TV TONIGHT

LASTING IMPACT
"The Soldier's Heart" on **FRONTLINE** (10 p.m., PBS) looks at the difficulties of soldiers returning from Iraq with severe psychological and emotional problems.

MAYBE IT IS A CURSE
HOUSE (9 p.m., Fox) A patient fears a curse.

PRIMING THE PUMP
Tyra Banks hosts a glance back at the third season of **AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL** (9 p.m., UPN). The fourth season of "Model" starts tomorrow.

THE KINDEST CUTS
LeAnn Rimes hosts the third season of **NASHVILLE STAR** (10 p.m., USA). In contrast with "American Idol," "Star" reduces the gong-quoting by beginning with



COUNTRY ROCK: "Nashville Star" looks for kids with musical and vocal talent.

10 finalists already in place.

GOOD FOR THEM
BREAKING VEGAS (9 p.m., History) A new series looks at professional crooks who have tried to beat the odds at Sin City casinos. **KEVIN MCDONOUGH** (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

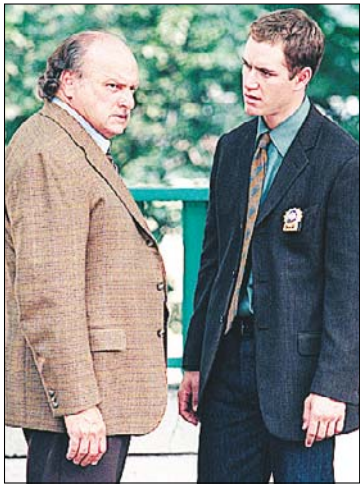
Goodbye to 'Blue'

Steven Bochco's groundbreaking ABC cop drama signs off

FINALE | A television era ends as "NYPD Blue" (10 p.m., ABC) airs its final episode.

When "Blue" was first broadcast in 1993, its frank sexuality and salty language made sponsors skittish. Some ABC affiliates refused to air it at all.

But viewers and critics responded to the show, and before long Dennis Franz's Detective Andy Sipowicz became one of television's most beloved cranks and most fully



Stars Dennis Franz and Mark-Paul Gosselaar share a last conversation.

realized, three-dimensional characters. The show was showered with accolades, and the sight of Dennis Franz walking away with a statue became a staple of the annual Emmy Awards show.

The show's co-creators have certainly managed to stay busy. David Milch created HBO's "Deadwood," where his taste for profane dialogue is unencumbered by network censors. Steven Bochco's latest police drama, "Blind Justice" starring Ron Eldard, will premiere a week from now on ABC in the old "Blue" time slot.

Before the final episode airs, Jimmy Smits returns to his old precinct to host the hour-long clip show retrospective "NYPD Blue: A Final Tribute" (9 p.m., ABC). **KEVIN MCDONOUGH** (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

3.1.05	6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC (4)	News		NBC Nightly News	Access Hollywood	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Scrubs (N)	Committed (N) (1)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (N)	News	News	Tonight Show	
	WTTG (5)	The Simpsons (1)	The Simpsons (1)	Friends (1)	Seinfeld (1)	American Idol (S Live)	House "Cursed" (N) (1)		News	Friends (1)	Seinfeld (1)		
	WJLA (7)	News	ABC Wld News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	My Wife and Kids	George Lopez (N)	NYPD Blue "A Final Tribute" (N)	NYPD Blue "Moving Day" (1)	News		(35) Nightline	
	WUSA (9)	News	CBS News	USA Tonight	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Pop Life" (N) (1)		The Amazing Race 7 "Courteous? This Is a Race!" (Season Premiere) (N) (1)	News		Late Show		
	WDCA (20)	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Girlfriends	Girlfriends	All of Us (N) (1)	Eve "Prom Night"	America's Next Top Model (N) (1)	King of the Hill (1)	King of the Hill (1)	Every-Raymond	Dharma & Greg	
	WMPT (22)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Business Rpt.	Outdoors Md.	American Experience "RFK" Robert F. Kennedy deals with the assassination.		Frontline "The Soldier's Heart" (N) (1)			Great Scenic Railway Journeys		
	WETA (26)	BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Nova (1) (DVS)		Nova "Crash of Flight III" (1)	Frontline "The Soldier's Heart" (N) (1)		Charlie Rose (N) (1)		
	WHUT (32)	Business Schl	Primary Focus TV	BBC World News	MoneyWise	Ernest J. Gaines: Louisiana Stories		Stop Crying in Silence (1)	BBC World News	Tavis Smiley (1)	Charlie Rose (N) (1)		
	WBDC (50)	The Parkers (1)	Steve Harvey	The Parkers (1)	Steve Harvey	Gilmore Girls "So... Good Talk" (N)		One Tree Hill (N) (1)	Will & Grace	Just Shoot Me (1)	Will & Grace	Blind Date (N) (1)	
BASIC CABLE	A&E	City Confidential: Palm Beach		American Justice: Murder		Cold Case Files		Cold Case Files		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Crossing Jordan "The Gift of Life" (1)	
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter		The Most Extreme "Gluttons"		Austin Stevens: Snakemaster (N)		The Most Extreme Dog breeds. (N)		Animal Cops Detroit		Austin Stevens: Snakemaster	
	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		BET Style		The Parkers (1)	Girlfriends	Soul Food	Club Comic View	BET Nightly News	BET Style		
	Bravo	(4:00) *** "Primary Colors" (1998)		The West Wing "Eppur Si Muove" (1)		Celebrity Poker Showdown Previous winners compete. (N) (1)				Queer Eye for the Straight Guy (N)		Celebrity Poker Showdown	
	Comedy	Crank Yankers	Wanda Does It	Daily Show	Mad TV (1)	Reel Comedy (N)	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	South Park	Chappelle's Show	Distraction (N)	Daily Show	Daily Show
	Court	NYPD Blue "Gypsy Woe's Me" (1)		Cops (1)	Cops (1)	Cops (1)	Cops (1)	Cops (1)	Cops (1)	Masterminds	Masterminds	Fake Out	House of Clues
	Discovery	Monster Garage		American Chopper		Mummy Autopsy (N)		Tattoo! Beauty, Art and Pain		Biker Build-Off (N)		Mummy Autopsy	
	DISCH	Paramedics "Air Care" (1)		Trauma: Life in the ER "Boomtown"		Triplets and Quints		Babies: Special Delivery		Make Room for Baby		Triplets and Quints	
	Disney	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister (1)	That's So Raven	That's So Raven	*** "Tarzan" (1999) Voices of Tony Goldwyn, Glenn Close. (1)			Sister, Sister (1)	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	That's So Raven	
	E!	Gastineau Girls		E! News (N)		Jackson Trial	Sylvester Stallone: Hollywood Story		Tawny Kitaen: THS	Gastineau Girls	Love Is in the Heir	Howard Stern	Howard Stern
	FX	(5:30) Fear Factor		King of the Hill (1)		** "Vertical Limit" (2000, Action) Chris O'Donnell, Bill Paxton. Mountain climbers are trapped in an icy cave on K2.				* "Life or Something Like It" (2002) Angelina Jolie.			
	HGTV	Wknd Warriors	Landscapers	Curb Appeal	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	Designer Finals	Decorating Cents	Mission: Orgnz	Designers'	Designers'	Design on a Dime	Painted House (1)
	Family	7th Heaven "It Takes a Village" (1)		Smallville "Reaper" (1)		** "The Sandlot" (1993, Comedy-Drama) Tom Guiry, Mike Vitar.				Whose Line?	Whose Line?	The 700 Club	
	History	Breaking Vegas				Bible Code II: Apocalypse		Breaking Vegas "The Ultimate Cheat"		Breaking Vegas "Slot Buster" (N)		Home & Bunker (N) (1)	
	Lifetime	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	** "Overkill: The Aileen Wuornos Story" (1992, Drama) Jean Smart. (1)			** "The Mary Kay Letourneau Story: All-American Girl" (2000) (1)				The Nanny	The Golden Girls	
	MTV	Uncensored	Borrow My Crew	Direct Effect (1)		Pimp My Ride (1)	Pimp My Ride (1)	The Real World	The Real World	The Real World	MTV Cribs (1)	Viva La Bam (1)	Viva La Bam (1)
	NICK	Drake & Josh (1)	Rugrats (1)	Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Oddparents	SpongeBob	Ned's School	Full House	Fatherhood	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
	SCI FI	Stargate SG-1 "Full Circle" (1)		Legend of Earthsea A young wizard must save his mystical land. (1)		Legend of Earthsea Ged tries to restore peace to Earthsea. (1)						** "The Clan of the Cave Bear"	
	SPIKE	World's Wildest Police Videos		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (1)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (1)		* "Bloodsport" (1988, Adventure) Jean-Claude Van Damme, Donald Gibb, Leah Ayres. (1)				MXC (1)	
TBS	Seinfeld (1)	Seinfeld (1)	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Friends (1)	Friends (1)	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	(:10) *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999) Mike Myers.				
TLC	Clean Sweep		In a Fix "Par Le Floor"		Mega Machines "Monster Beasts"		Overhaulin' "Soldier's Ride"		Rides "Hammer" MOPAR.		Mega Machines "Monster Beasts"		
TNT	Charmed "Valhalley of the Dolls"		Law & Order "DWB" (1) (DVS)		Law & Order "Who Let the Dogs Out"		Law & Order "Return" (1) (DVS)		Charmed (1)		Law & Order "Guardian" (1)		
USA	JAG "The Killer" (1) (DVS)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (1)		* "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Drama) Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia. (1)				Nashville Star (Season Premiere) (N)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		
VHI	Strange Love (1)	Strange Love (1)	Serial Daters (1)		* "Swept Away" (2002) Madonna, Adriano Giannini. Premiere. (1)				Celebrity Fit Club Ralpie proposes.		Fabulous Life Of...	Career Moves	
SPAN.	TELEM	Sala de Parejas	Noti-Telemndo	Anita No Te Rajes		La Mujer en el Espejo	Gitanas		Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer		Noticiero Tel.	Laura	
	UNIV	Viviana	Noticiero Univ	La Mujer de Madera		Rubi	Amor Real		Jugando al Amor		Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.	
SPORTS	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)		College Basketball Mississippi State at Arkansas. (Live)			College Basketball Indiana at Wisconsin. (Live)			SportsCenter (Live)			
	ESPN2	2004 World Series of Poker		College Basketball St. Joseph's at George Washington. (Live)			Streetball		Streetball	Streetball	Streetball	Vermont	Streetball
	CSN	The Sports List		College Basketball Virginia Tech at Clemson. (Live)			To Be Announced		SportsNite		Pro View		
NEWS	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		Paula Zahn Now	Larry King Live		NewsNight With Aaron Brown		Lou Dobbs Tonight		
	FNC	Special Report (Live)		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (Live)	Hannity & Colmes (Live)		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		
	MSNBC	The Abrams Report		Hardball		Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Getting Away With Murder?		Scarborough Country		Hardball		
MOVIES	AMC	(5:45) *** "Rooster Cogburn" (1975, Western) John Wayne. 'PG'				*** "Nevada Smith" (1966, Western) Steve McQueen, Karl Malden, Brian Keith. 'NR'				(:45) *** "Bend of the River" (1952) James Stewart.			
	TCM	Little Women 'NR'		*** "Road to Morocco" (1942) Bing Crosby. 'NR' (1)		*** "Charade" (1963, Mystery) Cary Grant, Audrey Hepburn. 'NR' (1)		*** "Somebody Up There Likes Me" (1956) Paul Newman. 'NR'					
	HBO	(:15) *** "Just Married" (2003, Comedy) Ashton Kutcher. (1) 'PG-13'		*** "Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!" (2004) (1) 'PG-13'		Robot-1st Look		Real Time (1)		Carnivale "Outskirts, Damascus, NE"			
	MAX	(4:45) *** Basic		* "Cobra" (1986, Drama) Sylvester Stallone. (1) 'R' (1)		*** "The Devil's Own" (1997, Drama) Harrison Ford. (1) 'R' (1)		*** "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" (2003) Arnold Schwarzenegger.					
	SHOW	(5:15) *** "No Good Deed" (2002)		*** "The School of Rock" (2003) Jack Black. iTV. (1) 'PG-13' (1)		*** "The Mudge Boy" (2003) Emile Hirsch. 'R' (1)		(:35) * "Boat Trip" (2003) Cuba Gooding Jr. 'R' (1)					
	TMC	(5:30) *** "Passion Fish" (1992) Mary McDonnell. Premiere. (1) 'R' (1)		* "Octane" (2003, Suspense) Madeleine Stowe. 'R' (1)		* "Nine Lives" (2002) Paris Hilton. Premiere. (1) 'R' (1)		*** "Narc" (2002) Ray Liotta. 'R'					
	STARZ!	(5:05) *** "The Living Daylights" (1987) 'PG' (1)		(:20) *** "Almost Heroes" (1998) Chris Farley. 'PG-13'		*** "The Third Wheel" (2002) Luke Wilson. 'PG-13'		(:35) *** "13 Going on 30" (2004) Jennifer Garner. (1)					
ENCORE	Blame-Bellboy		*** "Revenge of the Nerds II: Nerds in Paradise" (1)		* "For Richer or Poorer" (1997, Comedy) Tim Allen. (1) 'PG-13' (1)		*** "Kindergarten Cop" (1990) Arnold Schwarzenegger. (1) 'PG-13' (1)						

Sports



DOWNED, TO EARTH: Venus Williams lost in the first round for the first time in four years, beaten by Italy's Silvia Farina Elia 7-5, 7-6 (6) in the Dubai Women's Open on Monday. Her last first-round loss came at the 2001 French Open.

National's Mind on His Father

Pitcher Osuna trains with new team as dad battles throat cancer

NATIONALS | Antonio Osuna was the last player to arrive at spring training for the Washington Nationals, but his mind is still very much in Mexico.

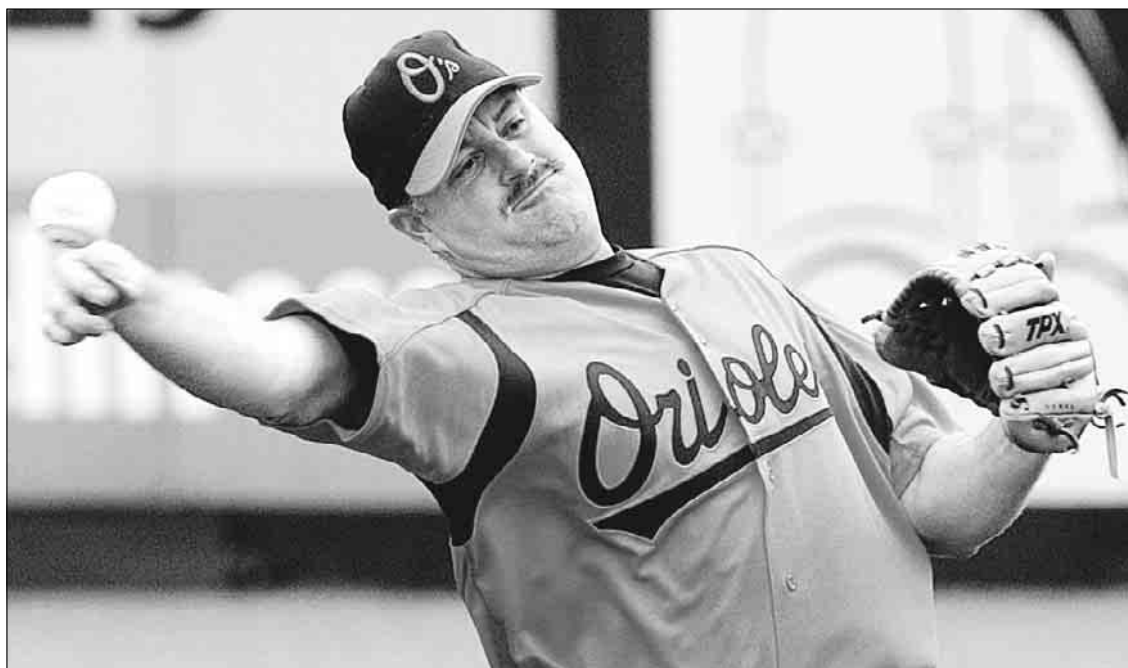
The right-handed reliever missed the first two weeks of camp to remain in Los Mochis, Mexico, with his father, Alberto, who has malignant throat cancer.

Osuna arrived Saturday night and had his first workout Sunday. "My father said, 'Go over there and after the season, you can come home,'" Osuna said Monday.

Osuna played winter ball, so he's ready to go despite the delay in joining his new team. Osuna signed a one-year, \$800,000 contract as a free agent from San Diego.

Although staying focused will be tough, manager Frank Robinson hopes Osuna can keep his mind in the game once he steps on the mound.

"Some people can leave that at the clubhouse door, but it takes a very special person to do that because we're human beings, and it may bother him. It's not an easy situation." (AP)



800 CLUB: Steve Reed, who signed with the Orioles this offseason, has appeared in 803 games as a relief pitcher in his career.

Long Journey to Baltimore

Veteran Reed brought in to help O's bullpen

ORIOLES | Because he has pitched for seven teams during his 14-year major league career — including two stints with Colorado and San Francisco — Steve Reed is perceived by some to be a journeyman.

The right-hander bristles at the label, in part because his sojourn around the country can be attributed to the fact that he's

such a valuable commodity in the bullpen.

"Journeyman? I don't think so. I was traded to contenders three times," Reed said. "It's not so much that I've been jumping around, it's been a situation where people wanted me."

Even though Reed will turn 40 on March 11, the Baltimore Orioles coveted the free agent enough to

sign him to a one-year contract with a club option for 2006.

During a career that began with San Francisco in 1992, Reed has been both effective and durable, as evidenced by his 3.51 ERA over 803 appearances.

"My job is to do what I came here to do and get paid to do, and that's to pitch," he said. "As it goes along, I think the guys respect you for what you've done and what you do." DAVID GINSBURG (AP)

Fan Fare

REDSKINS | BY JOSH MADDEN

An Offseason On the Brink

THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS were supposed to return to glory last season with the return of Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs. They imported two-time 1,500-yard rusher Clinton Portis and former gun-slinger Mark Brunell during last year's offseason.

But that mix couldn't end the team's run of failed expectations following offseason spending sprees, as the 'Skins sputtered to a 6-10 record.

This offseason was supposed to be a calm one in Washington.

The Redskins were expected to acquire another wide receiver and retain several defenders.

Did anyone really think they would stick to that plan?

"The only way Washington is going to turn around this losing mentality is to maintain some continuity."

Cornerback Fred Smoot — one of the team's most likeable players — looks to be pricing himself off the Redskins with expensive contract demands. Starting wide receiver Rod Gardner — an inconsistent former first-round pick — was given permission to seek a trade. And fellow wideout Laveranues Coles — who signed a \$35-million contract two years ago — has complained about the team's conservative offense and asked for his release.

Now there's talk that Washington is trying to sign former Titans cornerback Samari Rolle to a contract featuring a \$15 million signing bonus to replace Smoot.

The only way Washington is going to turn around this losing mentality is to maintain some continuity. This was supposed to be the offseason when that would take place. But as usual with the Redskins, fans will have to wait until next year.

Josh Madden is a senior at the University of Maryland, where he studies journalism.

Embattled Chaney Opts Out of A-10 Tournament

COLLEGE HOOPS | Temple's John Chaney will not coach in the Atlantic 10 tournament, part of a self-imposed punishment for ordering rough play by one of his players in a recent game that resulted in an opponent's injury.

The Hall of Fame coach was already suspended by the school for the final three games of the regular season. Chaney sent in a player he described as a "goon" against Saint Joseph's last week, and Hawks' senior John Bryant wound up with a broken arm.

Chaney had sent Nehemiah

Ingram in to "send a message" over what he said was Saint Joseph's use of illegal screens.



Chaney

"I believe the fair thing is for me not to coach during the Atlantic 10 championship tournament in Cincinnati," the

73-year-old Chaney said in a statement Monday. "John Bryant is unable to play in the Tournament because of the injury he sustained last week against Temple. Neither should I be able to coach." DAN GELSTON (AP)

GW Extends Coach Hobbs' Contract

COLLEGE HOOPS | Basketball coach Karl Hobbs got a three-year contract extension Monday from George Washington, a reward for putting the Colonials in position for a shot at their first NCAA tournament berth since 1999.

Hobbs' contract previously

went through 2008. He has a 60-51 record in four seasons, including 36-18 over the last two.

This season's team is 18-6 and can clinch a share of the Atlantic 10's regular-season West Division title with a victory Tuesday over Saint Joseph's. (AP)

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M. ON ESPN2) George Washington can end all debate about its NCAA Tournament status by defeating St. Joseph's in a battle of first-place teams in the Atlantic 10.

COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M. ON ESPN) Arkansas makes its case for the NCAA Tournament by trying to upset Mississippi St.

COLLEGE HOOPS (9 P.M. ON ESPN) Indiana can improve to 10-5 in the Big 10 — despite a 14-11 overall record — by defeating Wisconsin (18-7, 9-5).

NBA (7 P.M. ON NBA-TV) The Sacramento Kings go for a third-straight win since trading Chris Webber when visiting the Charlotte Bobcats.

"No one's asking me about this team, this year. I'm sick and tired of talking about Boston and the Red Sox."

—Derek Lowe, who left the Red Sox to sign with the Los Angeles Dodgers two months ago.



Sports

Baseball Set to Begin Drug Tests

DOPING | Testing under baseball's new drug agreement will start Thursday, according to the commissioner's office.

Lawyers for players and owners have been drafting the deal since they announced the agreement for tougher testing on Jan. 13.

"We're going to be in the camps testing starting the third of March, and I expect the language to be wrapped up in the next couple of days," Rob Manfred, management's executive vice president for labor relations, said Monday.

Under the new rules, players would be suspended for 10 days for a first positive test for a performance-enhancing drug, 30 days for a second positive test, 60 days for a third and one year for a fourth. (AP)

SPRING TRAINING | PADRES CHORUS LINE



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

PRE-7TH INNING STRETCH: San Diego Padres players — from right, Robert Fick, Freddy Guzman and Michel Hernandez — work through a drill during spring training in Peoria, Ariz., on Monday afternoon.



BY THE NUMBERS: For the 13th consecutive week, Illinois was ranked No. 1 in the AP college basketball poll. It's the fifth week that Illinois (28-0) was the unanimous top choice. The 13-week run at No. 1 is the longest since Kansas was on top for 15 straight polls in 1996-97. Five weeks as a unanimous choice is the longest streak since Duke's five-week run in 2001-02. (AP)

Scholarships At Risk After Report

Over 400 D-I programs fail academic standards

COLLEGE SPORTS | More than 400 sports teams at the nation's Division I schools could lose scholarships next year under the NCAA's new academic standards, according to a report released Monday.

Most of the scholarship losses, which would be for one year, were expected in football, baseball and men's basketball.

Of the 5,720 Division I teams, about 410 risk penalties. About half of the nation's 328 Division I schools have at least one team that could face sanctions, according to the NCAA's preliminary report.

The NCAA's new calculation

generates a score between 0 and 1,000. The number is determined by a points formula that rewards long-term eligibility and retention of student athletes.

The most prominent programs that appeared in trouble were the men's basketball teams at Fresno State and Baylor. Fresno State received a 611, while Baylor scored 647 — a figure affected by the transfer of several players after the 2003 shooting death of Patrick Dennehy.

At Maryland-Baltimore County, the men's indoor track team scored a 600 — a figure athletic director Charles Brown contests. (AP)



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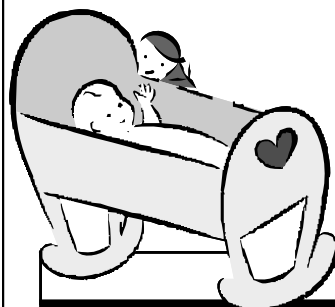
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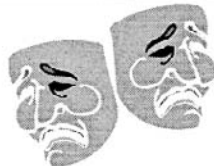
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Martha White, MD, Michael Kaliner, MD, Athena Economides, MD, Henry Li, MD, PhD and Mark Scarupa, MD

ASTHMA

Volunteers Needed for NIH Asthma Research Study

The **Pulmonary-Critical Care Medicine Branch** at the **National Institutes of Health** is looking for individuals with asthma between the ages of 18-65 to participate in a research study. A thorough medical evaluation and monetary compensation will be provided. If interested, please call **301-402-1553**.

“Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute”

Personal Finance.

Mondays.



XX247

LOVE & CARE

Assisted Living LLC

Come to the Love and Care assisted living facility loc. in Howard Cty. New facility equipped w/sprinkler syst., intercom syst., elevator, home theater & much more.The CEO & President has 12+ years of extensive exper. in nursing. Our professional staff are certified & equipped to take care of you or your loved one. Come & experience dignity & professionalism at it's highest. Call for an appt today. Love & Care Assisted Living, LLC, 11512 Jamestown Court, Laurel, MD, (Howard County), 301-395-1383 Email: loveandcareassistedliving@rock.com

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202-334-5759

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202-334-4060

FAX — 202-334-6724

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Is your

Child

always

sniffling

or congested?



Maybe it's Allergies!

Your child may be eligible to participate in a **research study** of an investigational nasal spray.

- Children between 6-11 years. •
- **Allergy test** and study-related exam at **no cost.** •
- 7 office visits over 15 weeks. •
- Compensation for time and travel. •

For more information please call: 301-962-1611 (Christina) — metro accessible • free parking



THE INSTITUTE FOR ASTHMA AND ALLERGY, P.C. | WHEATON, MARYLAND

Martha White, MD, Michael Kaliner, MD, Athena Economides, MD, Henry Li, MD, PhD and Mark Scarupa, MD

WANTED:

Normal Volunteers

Female, ages 28-40 and male, ages 18-65 to participate in a research study conducted by the Pulmonary-Critical Care Medicine Branch, NHLBI. The study involves a clinic visit and a blood sample. Participants will be compensated. Please call 301-496-9077.

‘Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Careers and Education. Mondays.



XX247

Stomach, Pain, Constipation, Diarrhea?

A clinical research study is being conducted in your area evaluating an investigational medication in the treatment of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) which cause many sufferers to experience stomach pain, constipation or diarrhea.

Both men and women between the ages of 18 and 70 are needed to complete this study. Participants who meet all entry criteria will be compensated for their time and travel.

If you are interested in participating and are currently experiencing symptoms of IBS, please contact

MARYLAND DISGESTIVE DISEASE RESEARCH at 240-554-0384 for more info.



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health
directory

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR COCAINE USERS

If you currently use cocaine and are interested in participating in an inpatient drug research study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, and are:

**Between 18-45
Years of Age**

**Call 1-866-750-2165
for more information**

And to schedule a confidential screening interview to see if you qualify.

Studies will be conducted in the
***Clinical Pharmacology Unit
of a federal medical research facility
in Bethesda, Maryland***

WANTED

Individuals with chronic bronchitis or bronchiectasis to participate in a 3 day inpatient study looking at the effects of chronic infection on the lung. The tests, including fiberoptic bronchoscopy, will be performed in the Pulmonary-Critical Care Medicine Branch at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

If interested, please
call 301-496-9077

Department of Health &
Human Services,
National Institutes of Health,
National Heart, Lung,
and Blood Institute

**Weekend Pass.
Thursdays.**

express

A publication of The Washington Post

IT'S UNBOUND TO BE A GREAT WEEKEND

WeekendPass, the Thursday guide to your hard-earned free time, is now a free-standing and convenient pullout section. With more listings, more articles and more fresh ideas for things to do, it's the Thursday guide that lasts all weekend. Just pick up Express—and pull.



WeekendPass. Thursdays.

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JOB

Accounting Clerk

Automotive finishes company in Temple Hills, Md is looking for an accounting clerk. Drug free environment. Full benefit package. Must be self motivated with strong attention to detail. Applications/resumes are being accepted at 4501 Beech Rd., Temple Hills, MD, 20748, Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm.

ACTIVISTS

HIRING EXPERIENCED CAMPAIGN AND CANVASS WORKERS

Fight for working families with Working America, a Community Affiliate of the AFL-CIO. Arlington campaign office, metro accessible. Training experienced activists to work in leadership positions. Competitive salary with excellent benefits, opportunity to travel. Respectful and rewarding workplace. Email Dave at work@workingamerica.org. EOE.

Admin Asst/Office Mgr

National labor rights organization seeks well-organized, enthusiastic Ofc Mgr for Arlington campaign office near Metro. Candidates must have excellent in-person and phone skills and experience, solid math and computer skills (Word, spreadsheets, internet). Experience with social/political issues preferred. Please send cover letter and resume to work@workingamerica.org. Attn: Admin Opening. EOE.

Admin/Clerical

Earn up to \$12-\$48/hr
Full benefits, paid training. Local area positions. Call 800-320-9353 x 2427.

Administrative

Kitchen Design/Sales Assistant
Strong computer and communication skills required. Position includes administrative support and customer service. Will train. Fax resumes to 301-417-6684

AIRLINES RAMP AGENTS AND AIRCRAFT CLEANERS

Swissport USA, Inc. at Dulles International Airport is hiring for part time Ramp Agents and Aircraft Cleaners. For the Ramp position, you must be able to lift 70 pounds, a valid driver's license required. \$9.00 to start with a review after 6 months. Aircraft Cleaners start at \$8.00. All positions require you to pass a background check and drug screening. Call for interview M-F 9:00AM to 5:00PM at (703) 661-0469

All For One And One for All!

Looking to become part a great team. The Natinoal Symphony Orchestra is looking for you to join our crew. Join in our team and inform the public of the great upcoming season. P/T hrs. Call Jeff 202-797-0083

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Rockville busy station.
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Auto Window Tinting Showtime Auto Salon seeks prof'l window tinter. Starting salary \$500-\$600/wk. Tue-Sat, 9am-6pm. 301-440-9534.

AUTOMOTIVE

AUTO PARTS

Mercedes Benz of Alexandria is looking for an experienced parts counter person. Top pay to the right individual. Benefits include 401k, paid vacation and holidays. Fax resume to 703-823-3703 Attn: Ron.

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Seven Corners. Two boys - 3 & 7.
8:15am-6:30pm M-F must have car & speak English. Call (703) 941-4401

BEAUTY/HAIR STYLIST

Master Cuts opening in Westfield Shopping Towne, Wheaton, MD. Best compensation pkg avail. incl. vac., med. eye, dental, 401k, college savings & stock purchase plans, on-going education & much more. For confidential interview, please call Thomas, 1-888-888-9998 ext 1572

Beauty

NAIL TECH—Needed for busy Day Spa in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-836-7330.

Business Dev't Exec

Top N. VA broker seeking confident & highly motivated individual to help achieve growth/sales goals. Need self-starter w/ emphasis on customer service, relationship building/sales. Must possess dynamic personality & ability to work within a team. Computer and MS Office skills req'd. Competitive base sal (\$35K+) & bonuses. Send resume & references to

Maye@Advantage1st.net.

CARPENTER/TRIM—Wanted to install quality interior wood shutters in residential setting. Excellent opportunity for motivated individual with clean driving record. Training, tools, benefits pkg. & van provided. Salary low-mid \$40's. Fax resume: Signatures Shutters, 202-484-2676.

CARPENTERS/LEAD

Top Skills = Top Pay
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CNA

Must be licensed in DC. Rewarding work caring for the elderly. Near Bookland/CU metro. Little Sisters of the Poor. Call Mrs. Welch 202-269-1831.

Construction

Superintendent

For NOVA custom homebuilder. 5 years min. experience in residential construction required. Competitive salary and benefits, bonus, auto allowance. Fax resume to 703-361-2968.

Construction

SIDING CREWS

Needed for entire Metro area.

Call Lee @ 240-388-0622

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Small Adelphi office has immediate PT to FT positions available. Qualified candidates must possess excellent telephone manners, good organizational and people skills. Must enjoy working with the public. General clerical duties included. Friendly, self motivated individuals apply in person, M-F 9am-11am at: 2277 University Blvd. E., Building B, Adelphi, MD.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Green Earth Dry Cleaner seeking dependable, FT/PT person for 2 stores (Kingstowne & Alexandria) Co. benefits. Up to \$20K/yr. Call 703-998-6464

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Guest Services Manager

The Fashion Centre At Pentagon City seeks Guest Services Manager for our Simon Guest Services Centre. The right candidate must exhibit exceptional guest services skills for a retail environment. Responsibilities include but not limited to: Daily financial management & monthly reconciliation of GS sales; support and associate training of corporate programs/policies; hiring, training, managing, motivating GS associates to deliver on GS accountabilities. Flexible schedule, M-F some WE. Skill Set: 2-5 years experience w/ Guest services mgmt, supervisory & sales a must, computer literacy required, solid math and effective communication skills required. EOE. Fax resume with cover letter to : Fashion Centre At Pentagon City, attn DMM at 703-415-2175

Dancers—Wanted for Gentleman's Club (PG County). \$300-\$500/night. No exp. needed. **240-286-3660/301-568-8500**

DENT RECEP—1 yr exp. a must. Position avail. PT. Individual organized & willing to learn, email resume to: dentaldupont@yahoo.com

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST

Tyson's Corner cosmetic dental office. Excel salary, benefits, + bonus. No exper nec. Fax resume: **703-448-6907**

DISTRIBUTORS

AIDS Marathon is looking for energetic, articulate people to help distribute promotional materials to local businesses. Neat appearance req'd. Car Helpful. Approx. 2 weeks (3/3-3/17), M-F, 9:30AM-6:00PM. \$10/Hour. Call Carolyn at 202-543-2786, M-F, 10AM-3PM.

Driver/Delivery

Warehouse in Lorton, VA is looking for a shuttle truck delivery driver. Must have a valid CDL, Hazmat endorsement pref'd. Drug free environment. Full benefit pkg. Driving record req'd w/application. Apply in person at 7218 Lockport Pl., Lorton, VA 22079, Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm.

Driver

Furniture Delivery

Local delivery in straight trucks. CDL not req. Good driving record, furniture exp. and cust. service skills preferred. \$600+ per/wk. Steven Blackwell @ 703-461-8859

DRIVER/LIMO CDL REQ'D

Wknds/eves. \$14-20/hr.

Call 703 922-7600

DRIVER — Van Driver — Full and part time. Must have good driving record. Friendly, out-going personality a plus. Must be able to work flexible hours. Near Courthouse Metro Station. Call 703/247-1002 for more information.

Drivers

Use your vehicle to deliver from restaurants in No. VA/DC. Earn \$12-20/hr. Paid training and starting bonus. Call 703-578-4218.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/ CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Mid-sized parking company seeks a dynamic EA in search of a challenging and stable career opportunity. Excellent position for a seasoned EA who takes pride in being a confidential and true 'right hand'. Requires a bachelor's degree, 3+ years tenure as an EA to a high-level executive, exceptional computer proficiency, administrative savvy, and the finesse to communicate and be a liaison with individuals at all levels. The preferred candidate will be a perfectionist who has superior organizational skills, Dictaphone expertise, vendor cost-benefit analysis preparation, and the mastery of performing virtual updates on corporate websites.

Competitive salary and benefits with location near Farragut Metros. Resumes with mandatory salary requirements to email: hr@pmi-parking.com or fax to 202-303-3676. Please include job code EX2005. Principals only. EOE.

JOB

FIN SVCS/MORTGAGES

Willing to educate.
Call Teresa 703-768-6300.

HOTEL — Front Desk Guest Service Agents — Full and Part time. Friendly, outgoing personality necessary. Must be able to work flexible hours. Near Courthouse Metro Station. Call 703/247-1002 for more information.

HOTEL — Room Attendants — 392-room hotel. Experience preferred. Must be able to work flexible hours. Near Courthouse Metro Station. Call 703/247-1002 for more information.

Lawn Care Technician—FT. Leesburg, VA area. A good driving record is required. Exper./certification a plus but will train anyone with a "can do" attitude. \$30-\$35K plus bonus. Weed Man, (703) 777-7795.

LEGAL ASST/SECRETARY

DC Law firm, 9-5:30. Min 1 yr. Per. inj. exp req. MS Word/Win skills. \$14/hr or negot. Fax res: **202-785-2051**

Legal Secretary/Paralegal/Office Manager.

Solo Attorney seeks smart, upbeat individual with strong, accurate typing and computer skills. Some bookkeeping. Paul D. Pearlstein, 1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Fax 202-223-8737. www.pearlstein-law.com

MAINTENANCE

Apartment complex. Plumbing.
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MARKETING/COPYWRITER

International award winning firm needs writer for 14 large charities and progressive causes - plus 2 large commercial clients. You need 2+ years copywriting experience in direct mail, advertising or fundraising. Great causes, fun staff and excellent training. Competitive salary, bonus program, casual environment and Metro accessible. Send resume, salary requirements and at least 7 writing samples to: hr@ahadirect.com or mail to Adams Hussey and Associates, Attn: G. Adams, 1400 Eye Street N.W. #650, WDC 20005. No calls and no freelancers please.

MARKETING/ENTRY LEVEL

SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT

Growing Adv. Co. just signed Baltimore's Major League Baseball team, has **F/T ROOKIE** pos. in **E-LVL**: Sales, Marketing, Promotions. No Exp. Nec. Rapid Advcmnt. **MUST BE ABLE TO START IMMED.** College Degree preferred! Up to \$42K 1st yr. Call Elizabeth at 703-288-3123 or fax resume to 703-288-3126.

MECHANIC

FT. Exp. necessary. Apply in person at Super Auto Care, 1259 First St. S.E., Wash., DC or call Beka 202-488-4334

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

PT, Mon,Tues,Thur. Call 202-726-0008.

MEDICAL BILLER

WASHINGTON FERTILITY CENTER

Seeking FT individual with a minimum of 5 years experience in insurance billing, collections, accounts receivable, posting of charges and payments. Excellent salary and benefits. Fax resume to Attn: Sherry 703-658-1304

MEDICAL RECEPTIONISTS

WASHINGTON FERTILITY CENTER

2 positions available. Seeking FT medical receptionists in the Rockville and Annandale locations. Must have excellent communication and customer service skills. Minimum 5 years experience in the medical field. Starting salary \$17/hr and up. Great benefits. Fax resume to C. Smith 703-658-3103.

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Aviation Trade association, Alexandria, near metro. Will assist in all recruitment and retention efforts, dues invoicing, trade show registration and database management. Must have a degree, excellent organizational and people skills and written and verbal communication skills. Some travel required. Resume and cover letter to E. Meade, 1635 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

MORTGAGE LOAN OFFICERS

Mortgage & Financial Company rapidly expanding in Rockville, MD! Growing Financial & Mortgage marketing company is seeking to fill several new vacancies. Although sales exp and degree pref, not yet required. Call branch office for details (240) 678-6354.

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150 Leads a Month!!

Rockville company is looking for loan officers who can convert 6 to 10 quality leads a day into closings. Up to 60% commission with 401(k) & health insurance. Fax resume to 866-422-6446

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JOB

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MORTGAGE

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NANNY—Seek exp'd Nanny; live-out, P/T Engl-spkg, own car. VA. 703-532-4768

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PLUMBER — Est. Rockville plumbing co. seeks local service, remodeling, and new construction plumbers. 5 yrs exp req'd. Top wages and excellent benefits. Call RV Carey's Plumbing at 301-424-8899

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Broker is seeking FULL TIME LICENSED agents.

Call 703.396.7880

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Computer literate for long established real estate and finance firm. Arlington office. Send resume: PO Box 3213, Arlington, VA 22203.

Restaurant

\$SDELIVERY DRIVERS

MAKE CASH DAILY! \$\$\$ Busy restaurant in Alex/Arl. area needs drivers! MUST have clean record, car, & insurance. Call 703-299-9464 or 703-244-6050. 3817 Mt. Vernon Ave, Alexandria.

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RESTAURANT



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Join the dynamic staff and crew of Washington's most unique fine dining experience. Immediate openings for our 2005 season. Experience preferred. Please apply Mon-Wed & Fri, 10am-4pm, Thurs, 12-8pm. February 28-March 11. Odyssey Cruises is located at Gangplank Marina, 600 Water Street SW, Waterfront Green or L'efant Metro Stations. Apply in person only. EOE.

JOB

Restaurant

Denny's Restaurant, 4445 Benning Rd NE, is looking for exp'd **Mgrs, Servers and Cashiers.** Apply on location.

RESTAURANT

Now hiring WAIT STAFF, HOSTS, MANAGERS & BARTENDERS — at 3 high-volume Georgetown waterfront restaurants. Hiring for Nick's Riverside Riverside Grill, Tony & Joe's Seafood Place, & Cabanas Restaurant. Please apply in person: 3000 K Street, NW, Washington Harbor.

Restaurant



WAIT STAFF, HOST STAFF, EXPERIENCED LINE COOKS & BACK-OF-HOUSE POSITIONS
Some fine dining exper. req'd. Please apply in person Mon-Thurs., 2-4pm: 2010 Crystal Dr., Arlington.

Retail Sales

PT Sales Person

Tue-Sat, 10am-6pm. Saturdays a must. Customer service important. Gaylord's Lamps & Shades, 4620 Leland Street, Bethesda, MD 301-986-9680

RN/LPN/CMA—Part-time, 20 hrs/wk. for pediatric office in Chevy Chase. Reliable team player with references. Fax resume to 301-718-7681.

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These motivated self-starters will perform intensive phone work, gathering information for a portfolio of commercial properties through an interview process. Additional responsibilities include tracking commercial real estate market activity; developing working relationships with industry professionals; and writing news stories on major market transactions and trends. A BA/BS degree or professional work experience equivalent. Proficiency in Windows-based applications, outstanding interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to learn & apply concepts are essential.

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Telephone interviewers wanted to conduct mkt research surveys. PT, Day & Eve hrs. No selling. Must have clear speaking voice. Spanish/Eng bilingual also welcome. Call Ms. Rose (301) 656-0310, M-F 11AM-2PM. (Metro accessible)

Warehouse Supervisor, 3RD SHIFT

Oversee loading of co. truck. 2 yrs min. exp. Some computer skills needed, Excel & Word. EOE Call HR, Carol, 410-888-8618 or FAX resume to: 301-470-4062

Warehouse/Immed Openings

Stock Clerks & Loaders. Will train right person. 1 time reg. fee. Labor Jobs Now: 202-546-7415 www.dclaborjobsnow.com

VICE PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Didlake Inc., a not for profit organization providing employment opportunities to people with disabilities, requires a Vice President in our Business Operations division to be responsible for the development and direction of on-site and off-site operations. Duties include maintaining a management system to ensure profitable, effective and efficient operation of the Production Departments; compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contractual obligations, and operating standards promulgated under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF); reviewing and altering programs in areas such as purchasing, cost, development and budget allocations, to ensure profitable operation; and participation in corporate strategic planning. This position will represent the organization in negotiations with existing and potential government and commercial customers in terms of cost, personnel requirements, and methods of operations, supply and equipment needs. Applicants selected may be subject to a government security investigation and must meet eligibility requirements for access to classified information. Requires BA/BS degree in Business Administration, Rehabilitation Education, Industrial Arts or related field required (Government contracting experience a plus). Minimum of 8 years relevant work experience with a minimum of 4 years supervisory/managerial experience, and a minimum of 2 years at the Senior Management level required. EOE. M/F/D/V

Didlake Inc. offers a great work environment close to home, career growth for our dedicated employees, and a full benefits package including retirement. For immediate consideration apply online at www.didlake.com.

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BD \$170/Queen double pillowtop set. New/plastic Can del 301-399-7870

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BED-\$260—King dbl pillowtop set. New in plastic-Can del 301-399-7870

BED/Mattress— FREE DELIVERY. Pillowtop sets, King \$395/Queen \$295, new. 703-780-4953

JOBS

DINING ROOM FURNITURE—Beautiful Italian green marble dining table \$3000. Blush maple hutch and buffet \$1000 for set. Call Jill 202-554-9130

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FAIR OAKS— Beds, mattresses, dressers, end tbls, lamps, comptr tbl, vac. clnr., etc. Call 703-631-2024

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CAREER TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

CAREER TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Fort Hunt/Waynewood—Huge Moving Sale! 2 windsurfers, piano, queen size waterbed, range hood, furniture..cheap! 443.466.5682

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The TSA is now hiring Transportation Security Screeners at Washington-Dulles International Airport

Full-Time: Starting at \$27,371 per year + benefits

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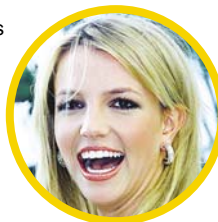
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Look out*

* TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

Hanzi Goes Hollywood | Mishaps From Pop to Plots

→ **During the filming** of 2002's "Crossroads," Britney Spears and co-star Taryn Manning got tattoos of a Kanji they believed meant "mysterious," according to media reports at the time.



Spears was reportedly distraught when she found out later that the character actually meant "strange."

→ **In the Jan. 11 episode** of the NBC sitcom "Committed," a character is informed by a

take-out delivery man that his tattoo doesn't actually mean "fiery strength," as he thought. Rather, it indicates that he plays the female role in a relationship of two males.

Culture

That Asian T-shirt or tattoo may not mean 'Sexy Mama' after all

Tian Tang was road-tripping through New Mexico this past summer when he noticed a Mitsubishi Mirage proudly emblazoned with Chinese characters. But he immediately spotted one little problem: The decals identified the car as a Honda Prelude.

The incident inspired him to create Hanzismatter.com, a blog dedicated to the misuse of Hanzi and Kanji in Western culture. (Hanzi are Chinese characters; Kanji are Chinese characters borrowed or modified for use in Japanese). Since the site launched in September, examples of garbled tattoos, T-shirts, advertisements and other gaffes have poured in. Tang, a graduate research assistant at Arizona State University in Tempe, and his international panel of Chinese and Japanese experts decipher and debate the often-baffling finds.

"I had known that Westerners weren't very multilingual, but started increasingly noticing mistakes," said the 28-year-old Tang, who moved to the United States from China in 1990. The site's take-home message: "People want to stand out. They don't want to learn something."

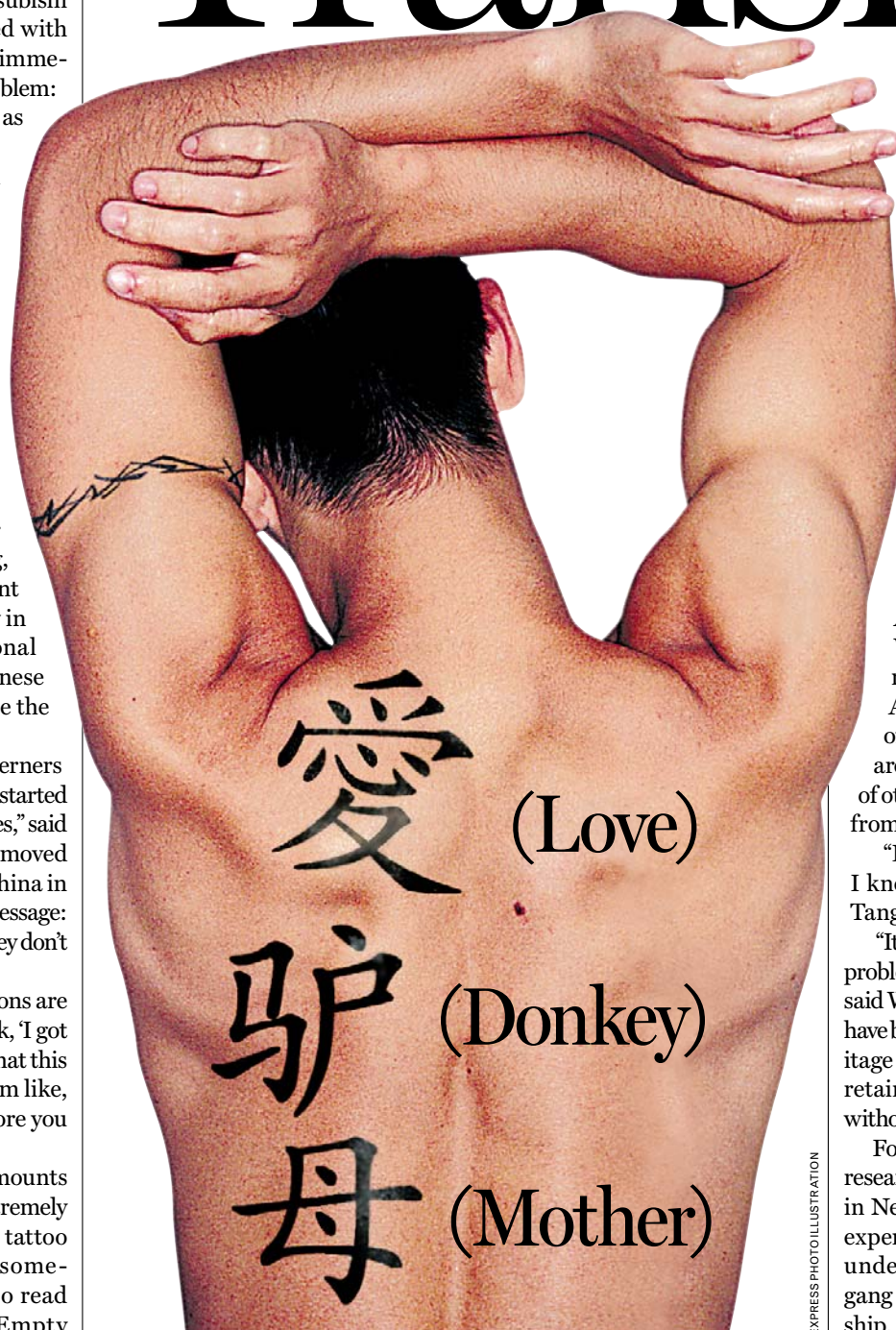
The majority of submissions are photos of tattoos. "People ask, 'I got the tattoo, can you tell me what this means?'" said Tang. "And I'm like, 'Why didn't you do this before you got that tattoo?'"

Most of what he sees amounts to gibberish, such as an "Extremely Military Affairs Stopping" tattoo or, in the tragic case of someone who thought her tattoo read "Mike," "Healthy Catch Empty

Lost in Translation

"People want to stand out. They don't want to learn something."

TIAN TANG, FOUNDER OF HANZISMATTER.COM



Achievement." Some flubbed characters don't even exist.

Tang is especially bewildered by corporate errors, such as a Nike ad for LeBron James basketball shoes — which he said reads "Extinguish fire from the base" — and an Urban Outfitters T-shirt printed backwards.

Just as people don't have to fully understand another culture to be fascinated by it (ask any starry-eyed exchange student), "you don't need a knowledge of the language to like Asian characters," said Gary Weaver, professor of international communications at American University's School of International Service. People are most attracted to the aspects of other cultures that are different from their own, he said.

"It's like, 'I'm cultured because I know something foreign,'" said Tang.

"It's not just Anglos that have this problem, it's American Asians, too," said Weaver — especially those who have become removed from their heritage through the generations and retain an interest in their culture without a full grasp of the language.

For example, while Weaver was researching Asian-American gangs in New York, he encountered FBI experts who were having trouble understanding the characters a gang was using to signify membership. It turned out gang members

were arbitrarily taking them from tuna cans. "They just look pretty and mysterious," he said.

Tang just wishes he'd stop seeing the same mistakes: missing dots, extra dashes, backwards characters. In tattooing, he sees frequent errors on the "flash," the slate of characters from which customers choose designs. Tattoo artists may use out-of-date characters or sources, and the meanings of characters can also change over time. "If you really want to get it done, do your research," he advised.

Gino Anthony of Midtown Tattoo in the District uses online Hanzi and Kanji dictionaries to find the right characters for tattoos. If there's any doubt, he charges the customer \$19 to consult a paid dictionary service. Sometimes he'll walk down the block to an Asian take-out restaurant and check with its employees, he said.

"If it takes seven more minutes to verify it, it's worth it, you know?" Anthony said. He may be more concerned than his customers: Some of them don't care whether their tattoo is in Chinese or Japanese, he said.

To some, it may not even matter what a tattoo (or a T-shirt or a car decal) means — as long as it looks like it *should* be meaningful. Asian characters say "something, but other people don't know what it is," said Sikhia Billingham of Washington's Black Enque Tattoos and Piercings. "It's like a secret."

But if you see your tattoo on Hanzismatter.com, you'll know the secret's out. CHRIS MINCHER (EXPRESS)

Movies

The Razzies

JOHN WILSON, founder of the Golden Raspberry Foundation, the organization that awards the year's worst films and cinematic performances, was online Monday and discussed this year's Razzie winners. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

I read online that before Halle Berry, Tom Green (for "Freddie Got Fingered" in 2001) was the last actor/actress to accept the award in person. Tom Green is hardly a household name. Who was the last A-list performer to accept in person?

By showing up at our awards, with her Oscar in hand, Halle Berry set a high bar for both fellow actors and our future ceremonies. She is the first person of her stature to have the courage and sense of humor about herself that allowed her to attend our show. I hope it's a precedent others will follow.

Your criteria for qualifying a movie to be judged (budget, Oscar-winning star, etc.) make sense, but what criteria do you use in actually making the judgment? Hammy acting, cardboard sets, confusing plots, etc., or pure informed intuition?

We look at box office, budget, what we call "Razzie pedigree" (if the film features someone we've recently Razzied) and critical reaction. Any film that gets below a 25 percent approval on Rotten Tomatoes is likely to draw our attention.

Is it fair to say big-budget films that bomb have a better chance at a Razzie? Anybody can make an el cheapo disaster, but it takes a real effort to make an "Alexander."

Often it is precisely because we know someone is capable of better work that they got Razzie-nominated. Someone like Britney Spears is, of course, not capable of much better than she's become a star doing. Someone like a Laurence Olivier or a Jessica Lange, both deservedly respected actors, is, in my mind, even more deserving when they blow it big time.

I think "Son of the Mask" is already leading the pack in nominations for the 2005 Razzies, no?

In addition to "Son of the Mask" there are "Constantine," "Elektra," "Hide and Seek" and several more. One of the keys to the Razzies' success is that Hollywood just can't seem to stop making really bad movies.

→ Today on Live Online

3 P.M.: Bob Woodward, Post assistant managing editor for investigations, discusses his Book World review of "DisneyWar."

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



Letters

Tax on Dividends Should Stay

IT DISTURBS ME to see the Republicans push for the elimination of the tax on dividends based on the argument against "double taxation" of income.

The GOP does not push for eliminating the states' double taxation of household income through sales and income taxes. Levying a tax on dividends does little to impair investment in corporate stocks, especially considering all the tax write-offs that exist. But the sales tax does harm consumption — as well as the profit margins of retail

stores and the pocketbooks of the average person.

—MARK LEDBETTER
Crofton, Md.

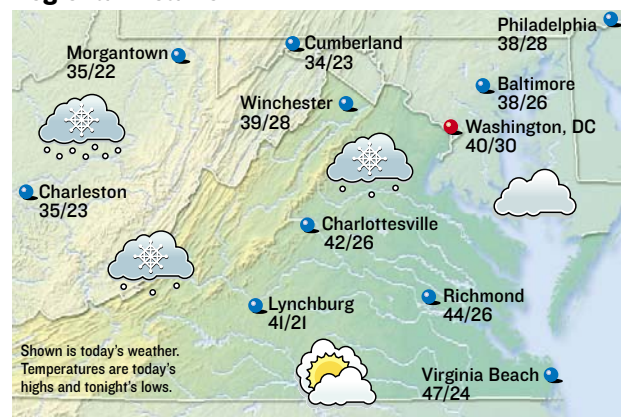


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Year to date	4.71"
Last year to date	3.63"
Normal year to date	5.84"

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Regional Forecast

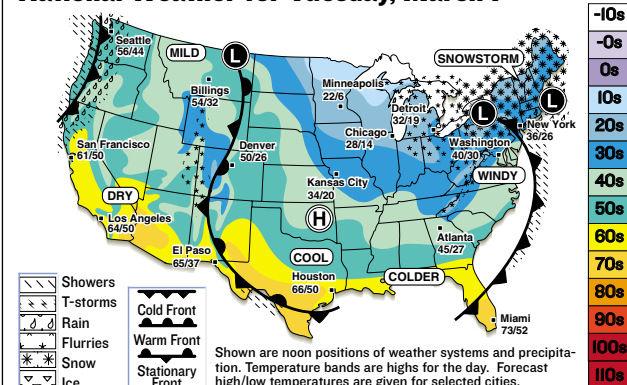
D.C. Metro: Today, variably cloudy, windy, cold, a few flurries. High 40. Wind west 15-25 mph. Tonight, snow showers, maybe a coating. Low 30.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	6:41 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:01 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:57 p.m.
Moonset today	9:14 a.m.



National Weather for Tuesday, March 1



National Cities

City	Today	Wed.
Atlanta	45/27/s	50/34/s
Boston	36/26/sn	34/18/sf
Chicago	28/14/sf	28/14/pc
Dallas	55/42/s	54/44/r
Denver	50/26/pc	50/26/pc
Honolulu	82/66/s	80/66/sh
Los Angeles	64/50/pc	66/52/sh
Miami	73/52/pc	70/54/s
New York City	36/26/sf	36/22/sf
Orlando	66/41/s	62/44/s
Seattle	56/44/r	52/40/sh

World Cities

City	Today	Wed.
Amsterdam	36/35/sn	36/31/sn
Athens	48/47/r	50/46/r
Berlin	23/16/sn	30/15/c
Buenos Aires	75/57/s	82/61/pc
Calgary	51/25/c	45/26/c
Dublin	43/34/sn	39/30/pc
Geneva	30/19/pc	38/29/pc
Moscow	9/-2/sf	9/0/sf
Rome	44/23/s	45/29/s
Sydney	87/68/s	85/63/pc
Tokyo	42/30/pc	41/33/pc

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

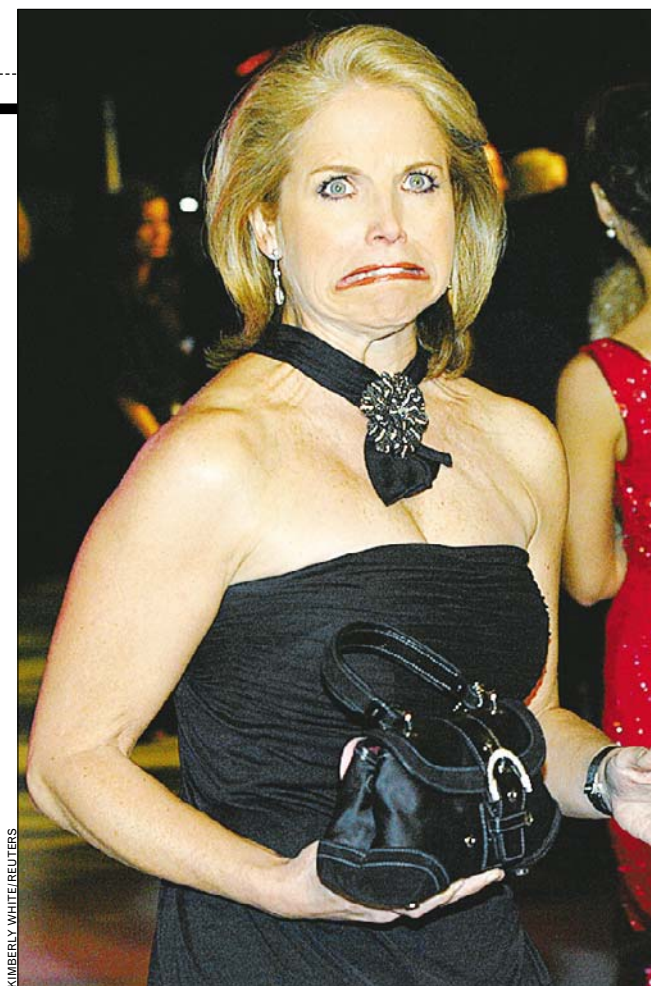
LOOK* out

People

CASSANDRAS

No One Listens. Then Evil Halle Doubles Take Over

HALLE BERRY won a three-year restraining order against an alleged stalker on Monday, Reuters reported. She said Robert Sawyer, a San Francisco security guard, sent several threatening letters to her home. In court papers, Sawyer said the letters were a result of mistaken identity and possible fraud; he explained that he met a woman who called herself Halle Berry who asked him to write a "manuscript" for her. When the real Berry didn't get back to him about the manuscript, he sent the threatening letters. (EXPRESS)



KIMBERLY WHITE/REUTERS

LIL'

Lil' Lawyers Defend Lil' Kim; Judge Refuses 'Lil' Prefix

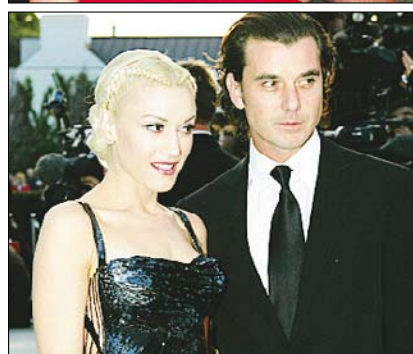
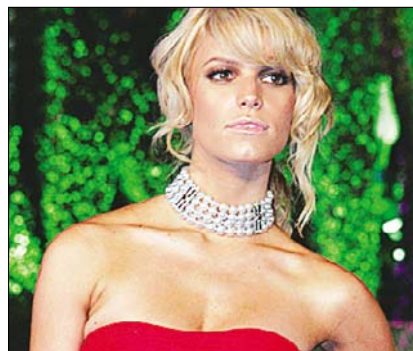
LIL' KIM watched Monday as a jury was chosen for her perjury trial in Manhattan federal court, Reuters reported. Opening statements are scheduled to begin Tuesday in the trial, which will decide whether Lil' Kim and personal assistant Monique Dopwell lied to a federal grand jury investigating a 2001 shootout in Manhattan. Lil' Kim faces one count of conspiracy, three counts of perjury, three counts of making false statements and one count of obstruction. (AP)



PARTY FILLER

The Other Oscars Night

After the Oscars comes the Vanity Fair party, which features many people who are fun to look at but aren't exactly Hollywood elite. A sampling: **KATIE COURIC**, whose ever-more-elastic facial muscles always make for a good photo; the normally lovely **JESSICA SIMPSON**, who Sunday looked like a leathery, overbaked retiree; **TARA REID**, bottom, whose dress resembled something a little girl might make for her Barbie out of an old hair ribbon; **GWEN STEFANI** and that guy she's married to, you know, he was in that band? We love you, Gwennie, but you're becoming a bit of an event whore. (EXPRESS)



KIMBERLY WHITE/REUTERS

PREGNANCIES

We Don't Care Unless It's J. Lo or Bennifer II, OK?

BEN STILLER and wife Christine Taylor are expecting their second child this summer, E! Online reported. Stiller, 39, and Taylor, 33, already have one daughter, a 2-year-old named Ella. Stiller's publicist confirmed the pregnancy but would not specify a due date, according to E! (EXPRESS)



RANDOM

Thanks for Letting Us Know

A Broadway engagement of "**JERRY SPRINGER** — The Opera" is still planned despite pressure from an evangelical Christian group. "While the widely covered but small-scale religious protests in the U.K. surrounding 'Jerry Springer' have not been helpful in ... raising the capital for the Broadway production, they have by no means brought an end to our New York plans," a spokesman said Monday. (AP)

COMPLAINTS

At Least They Didn't Cast Renee Zellweger as a Geisha

MICHELLE YEOH is lashing out at criticism that she and two other Chinese actresses took roles as Japanese women in the upcoming film "Memoirs of a Geisha," Agence France Presse reported Monday. The Hong Kong-based actress said audiences wouldn't pay attention to nationality. Gong Li and Zhang Ziyi are the other Chinese actresses in the film. (EXPRESS)



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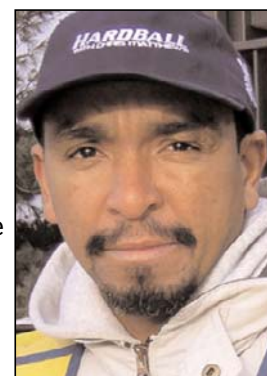
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1945

On March 1, President Roosevelt, back from the Yalta Conference, proclaimed the meeting a success during a joint session of Congress; also, in 1872, Congress authorized creation of Yellowstone National Park.

What's New | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

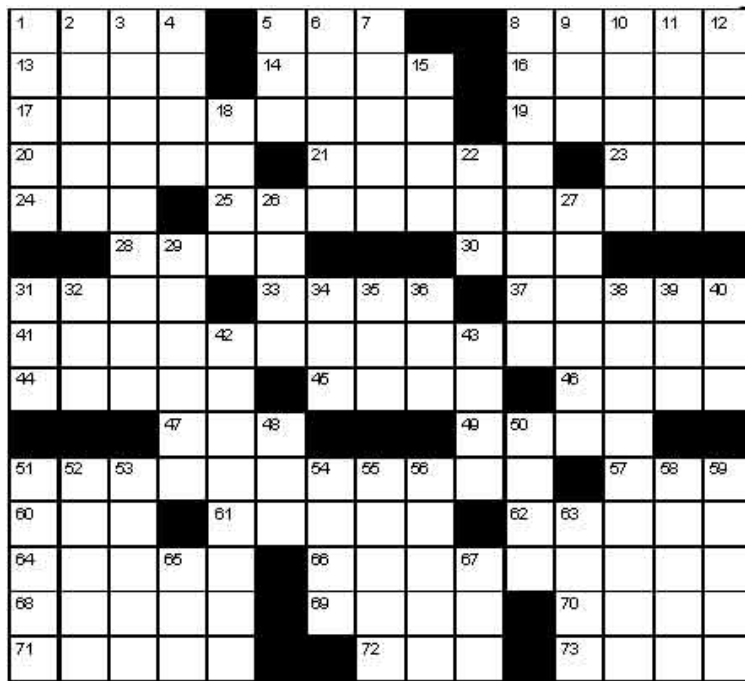
ACROSS

1 Groundbreaking person?
5 Sound strengthener, briefly
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17 Deserves a slap, perhaps
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46 "Wayne's World" star Carvey
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51 "Not a minute afterward"
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60 Encouraging word

61 Reason for an all-nighter
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69 Flexible Flyer
70 Melodious Horne
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6 Reagan attorney general
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43 Org. that delivers the goods
48 Clay today

50 Cutup with Oliver
51 Fragrance
52 For later viewing
53 Screen vixen
Bara
54 Sentence joiners
55 Coin toss choice
56 Glue name
58 Palestra, e.g.
59 Postponement
63 Numskull
65 Predetermine the outcome
67 Sullivan and Koch

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POST052PSP

Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Others are not likely to know what you are really thinking, no matter how clear and straightforward you may be. Mysteries abound.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It's a good day to break a habit or two — especially since others are willing to help you, no matter how difficult it may be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Avoid the overly colorful, flashy or ostentatious. You are best to surround yourself with

the down-to-earth and real.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You may be surprised to learn how your own thoughts are affecting your behavior. You cannot separate mind and body.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your best friend and most avid supporter is right by your side — and you're not taking notice. Open your eyes and see more clearly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You cannot expect others to keep up with you, for your energy and enthusiasm may well be limitless. You can do almost anything.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You are in need of some attention. You may have it for the one low price of asking outright. Be specific; satisfaction is imminent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You may prefer

to stay in and around the home, even when invitations and responsibilities call you away. Strike a balance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) The best you can offer is all that others are asking — and you can give it again and again, as often as needed. Keep it up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You are intent on keeping things orderly and in line — even if you have to work yourself to exhaustion to do so.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) No matter how impulsive you may be, you can still call the shots with a good deal of self-control. You are almost too balanced.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) There may be times in the day in which your greatest attributes actually become liabilities. It's up to you to recognize a way out.

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PUBLISHER—CHRISTOPHER MA | GENERAL MANAGER—ARNIE APPLEBAUM | EDITOR—DAN CACCIVARO | NEWS EDITOR—GREG BARBER | SECTION EDITORS—ARION BERGER, MAUREEN HOCH, CHRIS MINCHER, HOLLY MORRIS, MATT SWENSON, KIMBERLY TABOR |

ART DIRECTOR—SCOTT MCCARTHY | PAGE DESIGN—JODI BAFUNDO | PRODUCTION—MATTHEW LIDDI | PHOTO—MARCIA HARDER | COPY CHIEF—COLLEEN MARZEC | CONTENT DEVELOPERS—DANNY FREEDMAN, DARONA WILLIAMS | PUBLISHED BY EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS COMPANY, LLC PO BOX 17370 ARLINGTON, VA 22216 | A SUBSIDIARY OF THE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY | MAIN NUMBER: 703-469-2800 | FAX: 703-469-2831 | CIRCULATION INQUIRIES: 202-334-6992 OR E-MAIL CIRCULATION@READEXPRESS.COM | ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: CALL BOB KEENAN AT 202-334-6025 OR E-MAIL ADS@READEXPRESS.COM.



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